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City 'ready' for snowfall

WEATHER The City of Calgary said it is ready for any predicted snowfall and taking proactive measures to make sure commuters have safe roads to navigate.

Before the snow flies, city crews will be applying an anti-icing agent on known potential trouble spots such as bridge decks and hills.

"The City of Calgary is ready to handle any winter weather that may come this weekend. Our mission is to keep Calgarians on the move, and we'll do everything we can to get them to their destinations safely and efficiently," said roads maintenance manager Dean Bell. METRO CALGARY

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 2

Sports pg 19

Riders call on Air Force

Celebrity Buzz pg 33

Miley admits 'weird' crush

On the web
Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Man alleges assault by LRT peace officers

Investigation underway after steelworker reports bruises, cuts

DARREN KRAUSE
darren.krause@metronews.ca

An incident involving Calgary Transit peace officers that appears to have left a man with bruises and cuts on his face is under investigation.

Troy French, a 38-year-old Calgary steelworker, alleges peace officers punched him twice in the face after he "called them names" during a Nov. 6 incident at the Fish Creek LRT station.

He claims one of his front teeth was broken and his bottom lip cut.

Transit police disclosure notes provided to Metro Calgary don't mention punches thrown by officers. Instead, the notes say French resisted arrest and likely sustained his injuries when he was taken down, hitting his face on a grate.

Calgary Transit's head of safety, Brian Whitelaw, said every use-of-force complaint is investigated, then reviewed by a citizen oversight committee.

"If somebody punched somebody in the head, obviously we're going to take action, depending on the circumstances," said Whitelaw, noting that an officer would only use this type of force to get themselves "out of trouble."

French claims he was returning from work around 12:30 a.m. and waiting for the No. 12 bus when transit peace officers in a van "doing circles in front" of him began an aggressive verbal exchange.

"I called them names. That's all I did — I called them names," French said.

He alleges he was punched when officers handcuffed him and brought him to his knees for not showing proper ID, using vulgarity and resisting arrest. French alleges he was hit a second time as the officers escorted him to their van.

In an interview Thursday with Metro, French said he fears using transit now.

"I'm pretty much scared ... anything could happen now," he said.

"I'm afraid for (my wife), too."

In the disclosure notes provided to Metro Calgary, the officers say they found French digging through garbage cans.

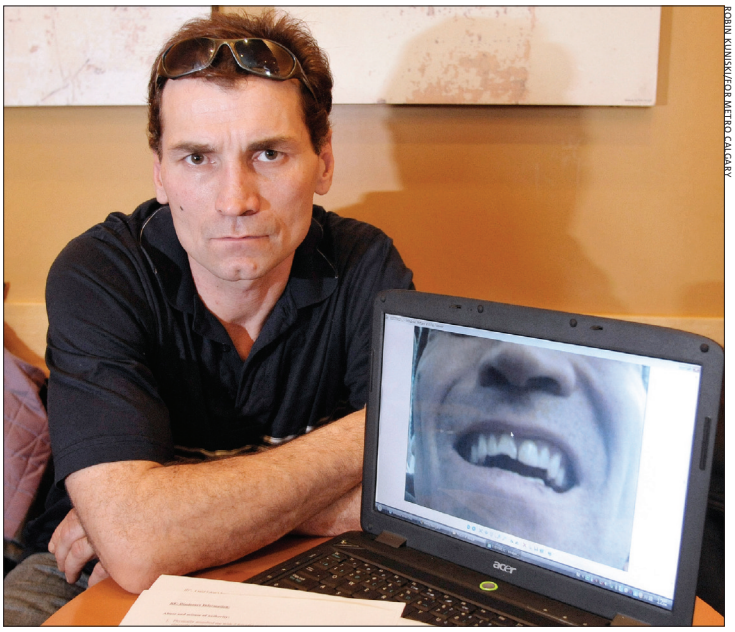
The notes say French shoved one officer and allegedly tried to spit blood from a cut lip.

The notes also detail a takedown where French's face hit a grate.

Whitelaw said the incident is under investigation and evidence, including independent accounts and closed-circuit television, will be examined.

"What this really comes down to is the credibility of the people," he said.

Metro Calgary asked to view the closed-circuit footage, but was denied for investigative reasons.



ROBIN KUNSKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Calgarian Troy French is alleging he was punched in the face twice by Calgary Transit peace officers, chipping his front tooth and causing a cut on his bottom lip, during a Nov. 6 incident at the Fish Creek LRT station. However, transit officers' disclosure notes tell a different story.

Lindhout getting care in Kenya

AFRICA Two foreign journalists freed after 15 months in captivity in Somalia have been receiving medical care in neighbouring Kenya, Canada's ambassador said.

Canadian Amanda Lindhout and Australian Nigel Brennan flew out of the Somali capital, Mogadishu, in a chartered plane early Thursday. Later in the day, Lindhout and Brennan arrived in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, and were taken to a hospital.

"They are receiving the best possible care they can," Ross Hynes, Canada's ambassador to Kenya, told The Associated Press. He declined to give more details. Brennan is reported to have said he was pistol-whipped and locked in chains for months during the time he was held hostage.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper welcomed Lindhout's release.

"We are ensuring that she receives all available consular support and assistance following her ordeal," Harper said in a statement Thursday. "Ms. Lindhout has been through an extremely difficult time. We are thankful that she will soon be reunited with her family and friends."

He said that the Canadian government was not involved in ransom negotiations and urged Canadians not to travel to Somalia.

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Local

"If this administration were really serious about cost savings, they would take a long, hard look in the mirror and cut back on the fat."

Liberal Leader David Swann on the government's latest quarterly financial update. He added the update claimed $430 million in savings, but noted $575 million in new expenditures. METRO CALGARY

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CALGARY OBITUARIES

CalgaryObits.com notes the following deaths in our community:

BAYLISS, Lawrence Matthew "Dawson"
CHAPMAN, Cayley Maureen
DAVENS , George
DONNA, Lily, Grogan
DUNN, James H. (J.D.)
DURDLE, Cheryl Dawn
EKVALL, Herbert Vincent
GERSTMAR, Jocelyne Diane
GWYNN, Melissa Joy
HARLESS, Richard Murl
HINES, Jackie (Jack)
JOHNSON, Cathy (nee Jongerius)
JORGINSON, George Ralph
KEIL, Robert Lee
MASONCHUCK, Kenneth J.
McCARTHY, Helen Martha (nee Doerksen)
McLAREN, E. Joyce (nee Wileman)
McNEILL, Helen Margaret
McTAVISH, Gordon Alexander
METCALFE, Frank
MINGO, Kelly Lynn
MOLNAR, Imre (Jim)
SABO, Otmar
SELOCK (nee Metcalfe) , Barbara Frances
TAM, Simon Sai Wing
TREMBLAY , Denis Herve
VESTRUM, Oris C.
WILSON, Hilda May
ZIMMER, Rose Jean Angeline (nee Zaba)

For full obituaries go to CalgaryObits.com

Food policy on city's menu

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

It's the tip of the iceberg ... lettuce.

Paul Hughes, chair of the Calgary Food Policy Council is applauding two aldermen for tabling a motion during Monday's council session to examine the feasibility of a local food policy in the city.

"This is a huge first step, and I am very proud of my city. I think this is something that is important and affects all Calgarians; it's an early Christmas for Calgary," Hughes said.

Hughes has been pushing council to develop a local food policy, much like Toronto's or Vancouver's, although make it unique to Calgary.

METRO CALGARY FILE PHOTO

A plan to create recommendations for a local food policy is being pitched at council on Monday. If approved, community gardens, like a downtown one shown above, could become more common.

Pointing to obesity, high demand at local food banks and lack of healthy eating, Hughes is ecstatic for what the study can mean for Calgary.

Ald. Joe Ceci and Ald. Bob Hawkesworth are bringing the motion forward Monday that the city looks to other cities' food policies and ultimately create one in Calgary.

"We're been hearing from many people about local food gardening and this is out chance to look at what we can do," Ceci said, adding cities like Toronto and Vancouver have been successful.

"I think we need to examine what other municipalities have been doing," he added.

The motion would ask for the report to be returned to council in June 2010.

10-year-old football fan will go Grey this weekend

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

A little help from above propelled one lucky Calgary child all the way to the Grey Cup game and he can't wait to cheer.

Darrell Wood-Schmidtka, 10, a huge football fan, was selected by a local youth group to receive a pair of tickets to the sold-out game on Sunday.

"I prayed and prayed that I would get to go; I prayed 30 times a day, even more than to go to Disneyland," he said.

The Stampeders fan is disappointed his favourite team isn't playing but he said he would wear his jersey anyway and cheer for the Roughriders.

He even chose to bring his mom — because, he says, "she is nice".

"I'm just so happy and excited for him," his mother Andrea said.

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Darrel Wood-Schmidtka, 10, shows off the Grey Cup tickets he received from Kids Upfront Foundation.

Kids Up Front Foundation is a local charity that provides access to sports and entertainment events to children and youth who may not otherwise have the opportunity to go.

"He is such a great kid, he's been working really hard and he is just so cute. He really deserves this," executive director Kari Scarlett said.

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News in brief

VANDALISM Calgary Crime Stoppers Association received a $2,000 donation from an anonymous donor responding to acts of vandalism against the Jewish community. Executive director Terry Hathaway said the person was "outraged" by the vandalism and wanted to encourage Calgarians to come forward with information. METRO CALGARY

Calgary tweets

- @robertmcbean I should have rented my place out for grey cup. not sure i want to be here this wknd living so close to mcmahon. #cfl #yyc
- Find out what we're up to! Follow Metro Alberta publisher @steveshrout or Metro Calgary managing editor @Darren_Krause

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Whistle-blower Richard Colvin's former boss in Afghanistan joins the push-back against torture allegations at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs Global Peasant's "easy-to-make, sure-to-impress" recipe for thin pear tart.

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Snowbirds to grace Grey Cup
The Canadian Forces Snowbirds, Canada's famous air demonstration team, are in Calgary for the Grey Cup weekend festivities, including a fly past during the parade Saturday and the game Sunday. METRO CALGARY

Campaign funding move too little, too late: Watchdog

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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CITY POLITICS A move by the mayor to improve municipal campaign financing accountability is necessary, but doesn't go far enough, according to a civic watchdog group.

Mayor Dave Bronconnier is putting forward the motion Monday meant to put limitations on donations and improve transparency by the 2010 civic election.

But Naheed Nenshi, spokesperson for The Better Calgary Campaign, said Bronconnier's upcoming motion to cap candidate contributions at $5,000 is too little, too late.

"I think this is the most important single thing council can do, but it should have been the first thing, not the last," Nenshi said, adding the cap should actually be $1,000 and be retroactive.

"I think some aldermen might already have a nice bank account racked up by now and one could say they would have a huge advantage over anyone coming in. It's a bit late"

Bronconnier says the motion is meant to create an even-playing field among candidates.

"This is about having something in place and I believe it's in the public's interest to know who is donating money and where it is going," he said.

News in brief

CRIME The Alberta government has raked in over $11 million dollars over the last year from the cars, cash and real estate it has seized from people linked to crime.

FIRE Investigators believe last week's garage fire that killed two men in the city's northeast was a result of mechanical work involving the gas tank.

METRO CALGARY

Province to go ahead with cuts

Budget picture has improved slightly, but Alberta still $4.3B in the red

The Alberta government is pushing ahead with deep budget cuts as it struggles to reduce a record deficit — an unfamiliar diet after a decade of spending fuelled by booming energy royalties.

"We were at the all-you-can-eat buffet for 10 years and Albertans were lined up with us," Treasury Board president Lloyd Snelgrove said Thursday.

"Maybe we didn't use as much prudence as we should have in growth, but I can't do anything about that," he told a news conference in Calgary.

"I can tell you going forward, it is not going to happen again."

The second-quarter fiscal update released Thursday pegs Alberta's deficit this year at $4.3 billion, down significantly from early projections of nearly $7 billion.

Most of the turnaround is linked to a $3-billion increase in forecasted revenues since the first quarter. The extra money is coming from higher oil prices and a boost in corporate income tax and investment returns.

The arithmetic the government is using to reduce the deficit hasn't impressed the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Ed Stelmach

"If it wasn't for higher corporate tax revenues and higher returns on the heritage fund, the deficit would have hardly changed from the first quarter," said federation spokesman Scott Hennig.

He noted that while the government found $430 million in savings, overall expenditures are still projected to rise by $575 million this year.

"Even when they are supposed to be cutting, they can't keep themselves from increasing spending."

Snelgrove said the Conservative government has managed to bring down the deficit without major job or program cuts.

Liberal Opposition Leader David Swann scoffed at Snelgrove's suggestion that most Albertans have hardly noticed the budget cuts.

"There's already evidence that there are tremendous losses in the health-care system," said Swann.

"Teachers are scrambling with larger class sizes and we've seen cuts to children's services. It's false to say this is not impacting people directly."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Jason Wiebe, owner of Chongo's Produce Market, holds some watermelons he brought in for all the die-hard Saskatchewan Roughrider fans who want to make melon helmets.

Riders fans cause watermelon shortage

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

GREY CUP Watermelons are the craze this week as city stores are ordering and re-ordering the popular Roughrider makeshift helmet.

A staple in Saskatchewan Roughrider territory, fans often hollow out the melons and reverse them on their heads as helmets and now the madness has hit city produce markets.

Jason Wiebe, manager of Chongo's Produce Market, said fans have already raided the market last week for watermelons and they shipped more in specifically for Grey Cup weekend festivities.

"We're ready for the rush. We expect to have a lot more people in looking for watermelons this weekend. I don't think it's weird at all, it's all good," Wiebe said of the unique demand.

"But I'm not a Riders fan at all," he joked.

Safeway Canada spokesperson Betty Kellsy confirmed Calgary stores will have more watermelons in today even though it's out of season.

"Usually we just have the smaller ones this time of year, but we ordered some in directly because of Rider fans. It's just really fun and unique and we're glad to be a part of it," she said.

Rider fan Nathaniel Morrison said although he's never donned a watermelon helmet before, he thinks he might carve one up for the Grey Cup.

"It's a special occasion and since so many people will be wearing them, I would stand out if I don't," he said.

Vaccination key to avoiding third wave of H1N1

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
Metro Canada

HEALTH The province's top docs say the second wave of the H1N1 virus has peaked and a third wave could be avoided if enough Albertans get vaccinated.

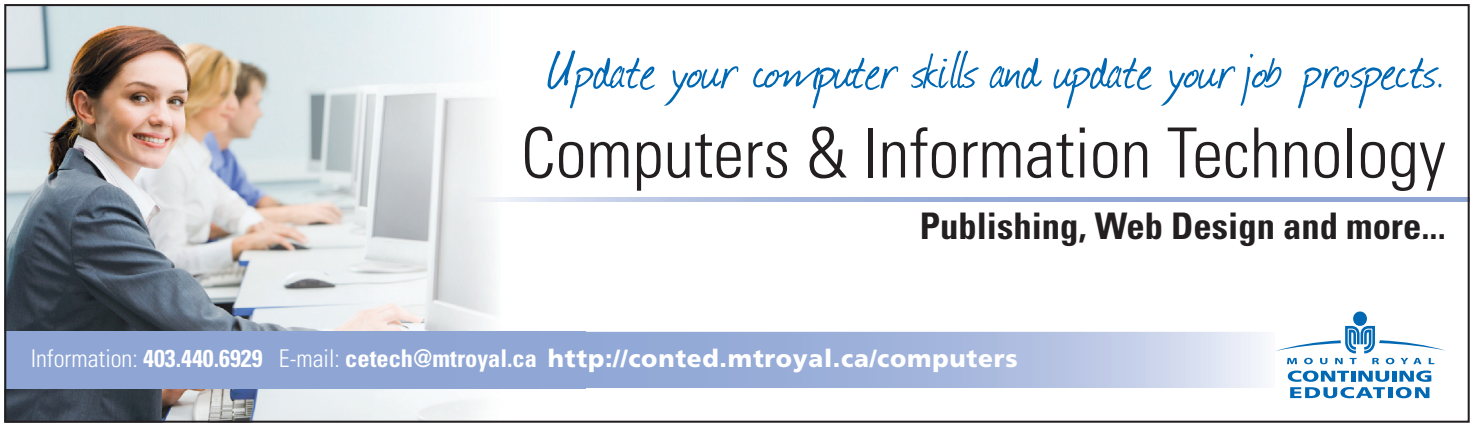
"Though the second wave is waning, the virus is still circulating," senior medical officer of health Dr. Gerry Predy said Thursday. "Even if we don't have a so-called 'third wave' the risk of infection is still there."

The doctors are urging all Albertans to get vaccinated before the holidays. Unless demand slows considerably, public clinics will stay open until Christmas.

As of Monday, Predy added, seasonal flu shots will be available at H1N1 vaccination clinics.

Around 50,000 Albertans receive the vaccine every day, and roughly 850,000 have been inoculated in total.

So far, 54 people infected with the virus have died and 1,100 have been hospitalized.



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Arrest made in N.L. spending scandal

Police in Newfoundland and Labrador have arrested the owner of a company allegedly involved in the province's legislative spending scandal. In June 2006, the province's auditor general alleged that $2.7 million in public money was misappropriated. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Saskatchewan to protect ponies

Saskatchewan has passed a law to protect wild ponies in the province's northwest. The law says that no person shall wilfully molest, interfere with, hurt, capture or kill any of the ponies that live in the Bronson forest northeast of Lloydminster. Saskatchewan Party MLA Tim McMillan says the law should help protect the ponies from being wiped out. The herd has dwindled from 150 to less than 40 and nearby ranchers recently found "piles of dead animals." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Afghan governor investigated: Official

No evidence to back torture chamber claims found, Commons committee hears

Canadian officials investigated claims that Kandahar's former governor was involved in torture but uncovered no evidence to prove it, a senior federal official said Thursday.

Claims that Asadullah Khalid was involved in abuse of prisoners was "widespread in Afghanistan," David Mulroney told a special House of Commons committee.

The federal government asked officials at the Canadian-run provincial reconstruction base in Kandahar to investigate the allegations that the governor ran a series of torture chambers, including one rumoured to be in the basement of the governor's palace.

"We could not find any evidence that we could bring to the Afghan government about this," said Mulroney, who oversaw the Afghan file in the Privy Council Office.

"We visited his residence, we didn't see any facility."

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

David Mulroney, Canada's ambassador to China, is seen before testifying in the Special Committee on the Canadian Mission in Afghanistan on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Thursday.

Rae wants to see reports

- Opposition MPs say they can't understand why two retired generals can look at reports related to alleged Afghan torture while they can't. Liberal foreign affairs critic Bob Rae says Parliament is being asked to do its work "blindfolded and in the dark."

He noted that other political figures in Afghanistan have faced similar allegations, but the fact that the Canadian government sent investigators to collect evidence on Khalid was a stunning revelation that sheds more light on the sometimes bitter internal debate that raged over the governor.

The debate boiled over in public in 2008 when former foreign affairs minister Maxime Bernier, at the end of a visit to Kandahar, mused aloud that he'd pushed President Hamid Karzai to replace Khalid.

"We spoke to people at a very high level in Kabul to express our concerns, but we never had any item that we could specifically point to," Mulroney said.

In his testimony before the Commons Afghanistan committee last week, diplomat whistleblower Richard Colvin said Khalid was known as a "bad actor on human rights" and that Canada was anxious to see him gone.

But Mulroney's testimony calls into question statements given Wednesday by Brig.-Gen. David Fraser, the country's ground commander in Kandahar in 2006. The general was asked point blank whether he was aware of any allegations that the governor was involved in prisoner abuse.

"I didn't receive any information about that," Fraser told the committee.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Feds to make prison transfers harder

ABROAD The Harper government introduced legislation Thursday to make it tougher for Canadians imprisoned abroad to serve out their sentences in Canada.

The bill would expand the conditions prisoners must meet before being allowed to obtain transfers to Canadian jails.

Among other things, they would have to satisfy the government that they pose no threat to public safety, that they've taken part in rehabilitation programs, have co-operated with law-enforcement agencies and accepted responsibility for their crimes.

"Right now, the law emphasizes the interests of the criminal. We are rebalancing that law to take into account the interests of Canadian society."
Peter Van Loan, public safety minister

Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan said the current law on transfers is tilted toward the right of criminals to return home. He said recent court rulings have made it difficult to block transfers except in cases where prisoners are deemed a threat to national security.

"Right now, the law emphasizes the interests of the criminal," Van Loan said. "We are rebalancing that law to take into account the interests of Canadian society."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Women protest topless in B.C.

ATTIRE Three topless female protesters have tested the limits of artistic freedom at a protest outside the B.C. legislature against government cuts to the arts. The chanting women painted green, with messages such as The Naked Truth scribbled on their bodies, wore black tape and loin cloths.

Their protest sparked a debate over artistic licence when organizers told them their costumes weren't approved legislature protest attire.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Humane society staff charged with cruelty to animals
Five senior Toronto Humane Society staff have been charged with cruelty to animals, CBC News Online reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Stem cells to heal tots?

Stem cells, rats and a special healing liquid.

All may spell H-E-L-P for premature babies with lung disease, experts say.

An international team headed by a University of Alberta researcher has used the stem cells to heal and protect the lungs of newborn rats.

Dr. Bernard Thebaud's team injected stem cells from bone marrow into the rats' airways.

Two weeks later, the rodents were running twice as far on treadmills and had better survival rates.

The cells pumped out a special healing liquid scientists are working to understand.

"That healing liquid seems to boost the power of healthy lung cells and helps them to repair the lungs," said Thebaud,

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lobster crews line up to aid rare whales

ENVIRONMENT Lobster fishermen on the East Coast are helping rare North Atlantic right whales — one of the world's most endangered marine mammals.

The fishermen are controlling the lethal fishing lines in the water.

They are altering the way they set lobster traps and will steer clear of the whales as they pass through the Bay of Fundy in a bid to cut the number of times the whales get snarled in fishing line.

Starting Monday when the lobster season opens in parts of the Bay of Fundy, hundreds of lobster harvesters will be asked to set their groundlines on the ocean floor to limit floating ropes and protect the whales against one of their main killers.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Peter Marshall attaches lines to his lobster traps in Hacketts Cove, N.S., on Thursday.

It's estimated 75 per cent of the remaining North Atlantic right whales have scars on their bodies from fishing line.

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Own a Toyota? You're in the clear
Toyota Canada says a probe into potential problems with floor mats that forced a giant recall in the U.S. does not affect its Canadian vehicles. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM steals Iggy's show

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff was outlining green policies in a wide-ranging speech Thursday — when his chief rival swooped in to steal his thunder.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper let it be known — right in the middle of Ignatieff's speech — that he will attend the global climate conference in Copenhagen alongside U.S. President Barack Obama.

Ignatieff was in the middle of telling a Quebec audience he favours a system in which companies would make money by going green, and polluters would need to pay.

Ignatieff said he hopes such a plan would fit into a global system, and work in conjunction with any plan set up in the U.S.

Harper's spokesperson Dimitri Soudas said the prime minister decided to go to Copenhagen after U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao announced their attendance.

Soudas said Harper's decision was based on the fact that now "a critical mass of world leaders will be attending."

The Tories have consistently downplayed expectations for the conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Iggy's ideas

- A system in which companies buy credits if they pass a certain emissions level while greener firms collect credits for under-polluting.
- He wants to quadruple the renewable energy used in Canada by 2017 — Canada's 150th birthday.
- He wants Canada to be a better steward of the Arctic.

News in brief

CRIME A man believed to be in his mid-20s has been shot and wounded on a Toronto city bus. Police say they were called to the scene in west-end Toronto about 9:15 p.m. Thursday. The victim is reported to have suffered a serious gunshot wound to his left shoulder. Toronto Transit Commission chairman Adam Giambrone said it is believed the shot came from outside the bus.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protests force bylaw change

OLYMPICS Vancouver has rewritten a controversial sign bylaw after activists alleged it would give police sweeping powers to seize protest materials during the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Council approved bylaw changes during the summer aimed at allowing the city to tackle ambush marketing by quickly removing signs erected without proper permits.

Civil liberties groups and Olympic critics charged that provisions in the bylaw would allow police or bylaw officers to enter their homes and take protest signs.

But a new version of the bylaw will be presented to council next week that limits the stricter enforcement rules — which are temporary and expire after the Games — to commercial signs only.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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No money for air ambulance system: Minister

Even though a provincial report recommends adding helicopters to Saskatchewan's air ambulance system, the province's health minister says they just don't have the money. Such an expansion could cost more than $40 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hospitality houses to bring world flavour

An upscale bistro on Vancouver's Granville Island will feel a lot like Switzerland during the 2010 Winter Olympics, serving chocolate fondue and, of course, Swiss cheese along with other authentic dishes from the Western European country.

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

The House of Switzerland will be one of many so-called hospitality houses that will be set up by competing countries, sports teams and sponsors during the 2010 Games, turning the city's downtown into a regular United Nations of food, drink and entertainment.

The countries or organizations staging the houses spend millions of dollars to take over local restaurants, bars or even custom-built temporary structures, and the sites have become an integral — if mostly private — part of every Olympics.

Bridges Restaurant will be plastered with Switzerland's iconic white cross flag and have daily activities such as quizzes about the country and chocolate tasting on Valentine's Day.

"People can meet there, can learn something about Switzerland, can enjoy a Swiss atmosphere," says Xenia Schlegel of the country's Department of Foreign Affairs.

"We're adding a few Swiss people to the existing (restaurant) staff, who treat the guests in a Swiss kind of way."

The Swiss government is spending about $2.5 million to set up at Bridges and at another restaurant in Whistler, and both will play host to Swiss broadcasters.

Ireland's house will be at a downtown Irish pub and Russia's will showcase the 2014 Olympics in Sochi at a giant waterfront globe that houses the city's Science Centre. Even the German state of Saxony will be there, setting up at the Vancouver Rowing Club.

For the most part, the houses are off-limits to the public, reserved for team members and their families, government officials and corporate sponsors.

However, there will be chances for fans to get inside a few of them, such as the crowd favourite Holland Heineken House, the Jamaican bobsleigh house or the Swiss house.

"It goes hand in hand with what Switzerland stands for: We're open, we're neutral," says Schlegel. "It's deeply rooted in the Swiss tradition."

The Canadian government and the provinces and territories will set up pavilions, designed to show off the country to visitors and potential investors.

They, too, will welcome the public.

Every jurisdiction in the country, as well as the federal government, will have a spot at the Games.

The four Atlantic provinces announced their combined pavilion this week, featuring a performance by Nova Scotia fiddler Ashley MacIsaac.

Atlantic Canada House will showcase performers from the region, local cuisine and feature nightly kitchen parties.

But most of the hospitality houses, such as the sites for the United States and Canada, will be invite-only affairs for athletes and their families to relax during the Games, and for Canadian sport officials and their sponsors to rub elbows.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Party!

- If Canada Olympic House is a quiet oasis for athletes, the Molson Canadian Hockey House wants to be party central. The massive 7,500-square-metre facility located near the Olympic ice hockey arena will broadcast all of the men's and women's games on giant screens. In between, it will feature performances from the likes of musicians Sam Roberts and Colin James.

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Cuba begins military exercises

Cuba's armed forces launched three days of intense military exercises across the island Thursday, a mobilization that state-controlled media says is designed to guard against an American invasion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Rice brought up Iraq on 9-11: Ambassador

Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice raised the issue of Iraq with the United Kingdom hours after the Sept. 11 attacks, Britain's former ambassador told an inquiry into the Iraq war Thursday. Christopher Meyer said he spoke with Rice on Sept. 11, 2001. At the time, she was still President George W. Bush's national security adviser. "She said there's no doubt this was an al-Qaeda operation, we are just looking to see if there could possibly be any connection with Saddam Hussein," Meyer told the panel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mayor turns self in, denies murders

PHILIPPINES Under threat of military attack, the leader of the clan suspected in the slaughter of 57 people in the southern Philippines turned himself in Thursday, and prosecutors say he will face murder charges in the country's worst election violence ever. Andal Ampatuan Jr., a town mayor, maintains he had nothing to do with the ambush of a convoy carrying his political rival's family, supporters and at least 22 journalists. Their bodies — mowed down by point-blank shots and some hacked up — were found in mass graves hastily dug by a backhoe. Some were buried with their vehicles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran confiscates Nobel medal

NORWAY Iranian authorities have confiscated Nobel Peace laureate Shirin Ebadi's medal, her lawyer and Norway's government said Thursday, in a sign of the increasingly drastic steps they are taking against any dissent. In Norway, where the peace prize is awarded, the government said the confiscation was a shocking first in the history of the 108-year-old prize.

Ebadi, a human rights lawyer, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her efforts in promoting democracy. She has long faced harassment from Iranian authorities for her activities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Revelations rock Ireland

Report says church covered up decades of child abuse

Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland covered up decades of child abuse by priests in order to protect the church's reputation, an expert commission reported Thursday after a three-year investigation.

Abuse victims welcomed the commission's report on the Dublin Archdiocese's mishandling of child abuse cases — one of several government investigations into chronic child rape, beatings and other cruelty in Catholic-run schools, children's workhouses and orphanages from 1975 to 2004. The government said the investigation "shows clearly that a systemic, calculated perversion of power and trust was visited on helpless and innocent children in the archdiocese."

"The perpetrators must continue to be brought to justice, and the people of Ireland must know that this can never happen again," the government said, also apologizing for the state's failure to hold church authorities accountable to the law.

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This is the second major government-ordered report this year exploring why authorities permitted widespread abuse of boys and girls at the hands of the Catholic Church throughout most of the 20th century, the gravest scandal in the history of independent Ireland. The 720-page report — delivered to the government in July but released Thursday — analyzes the cases of 46 priests against whom 320 complaints were filed.

The 46 were selected from more than 150 Dublin priests implicated in molesting or raping boys and girls since 1940. Eleven priests convicted of child abuse are named in the report, but 33 are referred to by aliases and two have their names blacked out because they have yet to face justice. The report rejected past bishops' key claim that they were ignorant of both the scale and criminality of priests' abuse of children, showing that the Dublin Archdiocese negotiated a 1987 insurance policy for future legal costs of defending lawsuits and compensation claims. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlusconi divorce gets down to hard cash

ITALY Premier Silvio Berlusconi's estranged wife is seeking US$65 million a year in alimony in a divorce case she launched after her husband was embroiled in a sex scandal, a bid that was immediately rejected by the billionaire media mogul, an Italian newspaper reported Thursday.

Veronica Lario and Silvio Berlusconi

Veronica Lario's lawyer, Maria Cristina Morelli, declined to comment on the report in Corriere della Sera.

Corriere della Sera, citing what it said were "informed sources," said Berlusconi, Italy's second-richest man, made a counteroffer of $300,000 monthly, and indicated willingness to go up to $400,000 monthly.

Berlusconi, 73, is listed by Forbes magazine as the 70th richest person in the world, worth $6.5 billion.

Lario, a 52-year-old former actress, said earlier this year she was fed up with Berlusconi's infatuation with young women and was seeking divorce.

The scandal swirls around several parties and dinners at Berlusconi's Sardinia estate and Rome residence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York Book honours pioneer

TINA FINEBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Claudette Colvin, who refused to be treated like a substandard citizen on an Alabama bus — nine months before civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks — stands with Phillip Hoose, winner of the 2009 National Book Award for Young People's Literature for his book about Colvin's life, Wednesday in New York.

Australia to shoot dead 6,000 camels

OUTBACK Australian authorities plan to corral about 6,000 wild camels with helicopters and gun them down after they overran a small Outback town in search of water, trampling fences, smashing tanks and contaminating supplies.

The Northern Territory government announced its plan Wednesday for Docker River, a town of 350 residents where thirsty camels have been arriving daily for weeks because of drought conditions in the region.

"The community of Docker River is under siege by 6,000 marauding, wild camels," local government minister Rob Knight said in Alice Springs, 500 kilometres northeast of Docker.

"This is a very critical situation out there, it's very unusual and it needs urgent action."

The carcasses of camels killed in stampedes are contaminating the water supply, he added. The government plans to use helicopters to herd the camels some 15 kilometres outside of town next week, where they will be shot and their carcasses left to decay in the desert. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barbaric?

- Glenys Oogjes, executive director of national advocacy group Animals Australia, said the plan to kill the camels was barbaric.

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Iran charges scholar with espionage
Iran brought new espionage charges against an Iranian-American scholar who was already convicted of spying and sentenced to 15 years in prison in the country's crackdown following June's disputed presidential election, a human rights group said Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zelaya's hopes dealt another blow

The Honduran Supreme Court recommended Thursday that lawmakers vote against restoring ousted President Manuel Zelaya, another blow for his quickly-fading chances of returning to power.

The Supreme Court submitted its opinion six days before Congress is scheduled to vote on Zelaya's fate as part of a U.S.-brokered agreement to end the political crisis over a June coup.

The justices concluded that Zelaya should not be restored to the presidency because he has criminal charges pending against him, Supreme Court spokesman Danilo Izaguirre said.

"While he faces judicial charges, he cannot return to power," Izaguirre said.

Zelaya, who has been holed up in the Brazilian Embassy since sneaking back into the country from his forced exile Sept. 21, has declared the U.S.-backed pact a failure, arguing Congress is violating the spirit of the agreement by waiting until after presidential elections Sunday to decide his future.

The agreement called for the formation of a unity government, but left the decision on restoring Zelaya up to Congress, which was given the option of consulting the Supreme Court and other institutions.

The Supreme Court justices had initially deemed Zelaya's ouster legal because he violated court orders to cancel a referendum on rewriting the constitution.

Opponents say Zelaya wanted to lift a ban on presidential re-election; Zelaya denies that was his goal.

Soldiers arrested Zelaya and whisked him out of the country at gunpoint on June 28. Hours later, Congress voted to back his ouster.

Western Hemisphere countries, once united in condemning the coup, are divided on whether to recognize the elections, which had been scheduled before Zelaya's ouster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Questions continue over brain-damaged man's abilities

BELGIUM Rom Houben's mother remembers her son's amazement when he finally started communicating again after spending 23 years locked in a paralyzed body that was misdiagnosed as vegetative.

"Early on, he was surprised that the words came out of his finger," Fina Nicolaes said. "Now, he is busy writing a book."

However, his communication, with the help of a speech therapist holding his hand punching a touch screen, is stirring controversy only days after the story of his comeback as a fully-conscious man entombed in an immobile body captured the world's imagination.

It has scholars questioning the technique of facilitated communication, bloggers denouncing it as a cruel farce, and millions asking as they watch the video of Houben's hand being held as it quickly types into the screen — who is really doing the punching here?

When news of Houben's recovery and the video hit the world this week, some people immediately began raising doubts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

NUCLEAR The outgoing head of the International Atomic Energy Agency said Thursday his probe of Iran's nuclear program is at "a dead end" and that trust in Tehran's credibility is shrinking after its belated revelation that it was secretly building a nuclear facility. Mohamed ElBaradei's — four days before leaving the position — blunt criticism of the Islamic Republic was notable in representing a broad convergence with U.S. opinion, which for years was critical of the IAEA for what it perceived as his softness on Iran.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PEOPLE POWERED

Cartier jewelry store robbed
Armed robbers made off with hundreds of thousands of euros worth of jewelry from a store in Lyon, France. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scandal of the skirt

Brazilian student to march in famous parades

Brazilians may be seeing a whole lot more of the student whose short pink dress got her booted from college: She's agreed to march in the nation's famously flesh-baring Carnival parades.

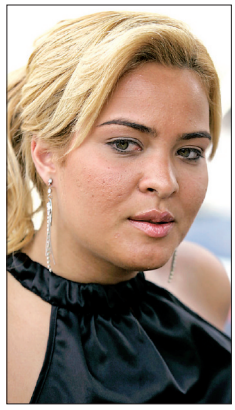
Geisy Arruda, who became an instant celebrity after being heckled by hundreds of fellow students because of her dress, said Thursday she has accepted invitations to participate with samba groups in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

"It will be a dream come true for me," Arruda said just before giving a deposition to police investigating the students who harassed her on Oct. 22 at the University Bandeirante in Sao Bernardo do Campo, just outside Sao Paulo.

Arruda, 20, said she will parade for the Leandro de Itaquera samba school in Sao Paulo, and the Porto da Pedra school in Rio. The Rio and Sao Paulo parades are broadcast live throughout the nation of more than 190 million people. "Sometimes, good things come from bad things," she said.

Many women featured in Carnival dance nearly nude in feathered costumes, but Arruda didn't say how naked she's willing to get.

Porto da Pedra's theme for this year's parade at the Sambadrome will be "What will I wear?" — addressing the evolution of fashion. It wasn't yet known what kind of costume Arruda will wear or if she will be on top of a float.


Geisy Arruda

"I hope to look good," Arruda said, as photographers kept trying to get a good shot of the student who became an Internet sensation after video of what happened at the school appeared on YouTube. She had to put on a professor's white coat and left the campus amid a hail of insults and curses.

The private university expelled Arruda, alleging her provocative attitude, not her dress, caused the near riot. After a national uproar, the university reinstated her.

Arruda has made the circuit of television talks shows in Brazil and has said she is enjoying her fame, but she denied any plans to pose nude for men's magazines. "I don't want to get exposed like that," she said.

Arruda, who was studying tourism, said she hoped to finish her freshman year at Bandeirante and transfer to another school in 2010. But she said she hasn't returned to class because she still fears for her safety.

Her lawyers have asked the university to guarantee her safety, but they say the school has not given any assurance.

"I want to go back, but I'm very scared right now," Arruda said. "Without some help from the university, there is no way I can return. They haven't done anything yet."

The phone rang unanswered at the school's media office Thursday, but officials there earlier said Arruda would be safe if she comes back.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia mired in violence: Three dead in separate incidents in northern provinces

RUSSIA Violence in three provinces of Russia's North Caucasus left three people dead Thursday — one senior police officer, one suspected militant and one bystander.

The chief of a riot police unit in Dagestan, on the Caspian Sea east of war-scarred Chechnya, was shot by two gunmen as he headed to work in the provincial capital of Makhachkala.

In Ingushetia, west of Chechnya, security forces killed a suspected militant during a gunbattle in a wooded area. Another gunman was wounded, but avoided capture.

A bystander was killed in an exchange of gunfire that ensued when police stopped two suspicious-looking men in the street in Nalchik, the capital of Kabardino-Balkari.

Chechnya and neighbouring North Caucasus provinces have remained mired in violence stemming from wars between separatist Chechen rebels and the Russian government. More than 50 police officers have been gunned down by Islamic militants in Dagestan alone so far this year.

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Comment

U of C coach sees man in the mirror

UrbanCompass

Janice Paskey

metronews.ca/paskey

The American Film Institute lists Hoosiers as one of the 10 best sports films of all time.

It's the story of a top basketball coach who rebuilds his career at a rural high school in Indiana. His crime: He hit a player and was fired.

University of Calgary's Blake Nill isn't suffering the same fate. He's the football coach who unleashed fury toward his son, Taylor Nill, at a Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) semifinal game last week.

Taylor, 19, taunted his opponents after U of C scored. His coach dad went ballistic.

Now, the U of C is playing for the Canadian university championship Saturday in Laval, and Nill is nominated for coach of the year. It's likely he fumbled the honour away.

That's the thing about kids. They irritate the hell out of you. And the worst thing? You see all your faults played right back at you.

"If you watch football, or hockey, then you can't completely criticize loss of control. Somehow, coaches are supposed to prepare a team for aggressive competition and remain calm as a lily in the morning dew."

What Blake Nill saw wasn't his son acting like a jerk. He saw a young version of himself kicking an opponent when he was down; he saw his own in-your-face, raging bull of a temper busting free from years of uneasy containment.

He saw all his parenting efforts, or failure of them. Blake Nill looked at the face of his kid and saw the man in the mirror. He might have also seen his son's pro dreams dissolve before his eyes.

What Coach Nill did seemed proportional to the offence. The only problem is he didn't take it further. Banishing his son to the bench was the right response.

If you watch football, or hockey, then you can't completely criticize loss of control. Somehow, coaches are supposed to prepare a team for aggressive competition and remain calm as a lily in the morning dew.

The fight hormones surge, both for the coach and spectators.

After watching my son's last hockey game, I had trouble sleeping. Adrenaline still flowed. My son took an elbow to the head, some hits from behind.

I watched two of the opposing players jump on one of ours and started punching. Later, my 11-year-old went to bed sore.

If he had levelled those punches, would he be grounded or would he merit an extra bowl of ice cream? I'm just not sure. Not sure at all.

And that ambivalence in the sports world is why Coach Nill won't be fired before the Vanier Cup, or at all.

Janice Paskey teaches at Mount Royal University and is a volunteer with Westwood Hockey.

Views

Radicalism and racism: Polarities to avoid

InStep

Christine Williams

With news of the Fort Hood rampage in Texas and the revamped Canadian citizenship guide warning newcomers that "barbaric cultural practices" will not be tolerated, conflicting debates about terrorism and our expectations in the West are once again active and will continue to be until we collectively confront the two menacing forces of radicalism and racism.

Both of these variables are alive and well and should invoke a deep horror. Yet those who persistently deny the reality of any one of these insidious evils do so to the peril of our society as a whole.

So let's start with racism. Labelling and stigmatizing people lead to deep divisions within a society and facilitate a hostile environment, not conducive to the positive growth of an increasingly diverse civilization. Many Muslims have been on the receiving end of stigmatization. We need to be clear that the vast majority of Muslims in the West are peace loving. Muslims who regularly attend mosque and read the Qur'an should not automatically translate into our minds as enemies of our democracy. Although there are Qur'anic texts that call for jihad by the sword, most Muslims in our society do not adhere to this strict, literal interpretation.

In fact, moderate Muslims are referred to as apostates by radical groups and they understand the threat of extremist zeal even more than non-Muslims. The Muslim Canadian Congress has frequently stood up in defence of our democratic values, while renouncing all attempts to conceal the nature of extremism. It continues to do so even in the face of death threats. So we need to think twice before exercising discrimination on all people of the Muslim faith.

It is only those Muslims who embrace a militant and extreme ideology rooted in Salafism that we need to be concerned about. Salafism is often used interchangeably with Wahabbism and, in its most extreme form, calls for jihad by the sword against all perceived enemies of Islam — particularly the West — and includes the subjugation of women, sometimes brutal.

We cannot afford to import this irrational zeal, which is accepted and encouraged in many parts of the world. We have every right to challenge such ideologies.

It is time for us to make clear distinctions between peace-loving Muslims from those who are radicals. Suppressing open discussion and dialogue only serves to drive the evils of racism and radicalism underground where both can flourish to the detriment of all us all.

Christine Williams is the producer and host of the live current affairs daily talk show On the Line at CTS TV in Burlington, Ont.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Dealers suing GM Canada for millions

A group of dealers is suing General Motors of Canada for millions of dollars in damages for alleged contract breaches and are seeking a court injunction to stop the auto giant from terminating their franchises.

Eleven longtime Southern Ontario dealers and one from Prince Edward Island filed a statement of claim in Ontario court on Thursday.

The dealers say they want a permanent injunction to prohibit GM from ending their agreements and a declaration entitling them to remain open for at least five years.

Their claim is seeking unidentified compensatory damages for loss of profit, goodwill, reputation, market share and business opportunities because of the alleged breaches plus $1.5 million in punitive damages for each dealer.

The claim follows GM's announcement in May that the company would close uo to 250 dealerships by the end of October 2010 when franchise agreements expire.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

250 GM announced in May that it would close between 240 and 250 dealerships by October 2010 when franchise agreements expire.

Macy's New route for traditional parade

FRANK FRANKLIN II/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Spiderman float is guided across Central Park South during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Thursday in New York. Macy's parade still owns the city's biggest stage — even after going off Broadway. The new 2.65-mile route took clowns, floats and bands from Central Park West to Seventh Avenue before thousands of tourists and balloon-loving New Yorkers. The parade had to be rerouted as parts of Broadway are now closed to vehicular traffic, making floats off-limits.

Rogers Communications to cut 900 jobs

Rogers Communications Inc. says it's laying off about 900 employees across Canada, mostly in executive and management positions, in an effort to streamline operations as it grapples with intensifying competition.

A spokeswoman for the telecommunications and media giant didn't give a precise figure for the number of people affected, but said the layoffs represent three per cent of the company's total workforce of 30,000 across the country.

"The goal was to streamline the organization, remove the number of layers and enable quick and faster decision making," said Rogers spokeswoman Terrie Tweddle in an interview Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Consumer confidence drops: Survey

MOOD A new survey shows Canadian consumers are feeling less confident in economic recovery and their job security.

The monthly survey by the Conference Board of Canada shows consumer confidence fell in November, the second month in a row.

Major worries were job security and personal finances.

The November survey found only 19.7 per cent of the respondents expected to find more jobs available over the next six months, as opposed to 25 per cent who said they believe fewer jobs will be on offer.

Just 13.9 per cent of respondents answered positively about their current finances. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In brief

LAYOFF Bombardier Aerospace says it will lay off an additional 715 workers in its Montreal-area facilities as it reduces production of its CRJ regional jets. The company says a tough economic and airline industry environment make it difficult to gain new aircraft orders. Executives have been warning of cuts to the work-force for some time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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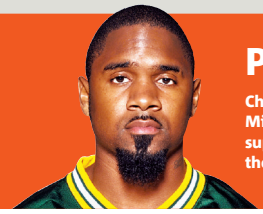
Who to play at Super Bowl
The Who will perform at halftime of the Super Bowl this season. The NFL announced during Thursday's game between the Oakland Raiders and Dallas Cowboys that the longtime rock band will play Feb. 7 at Dolphin Stadium in Miami. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Packers star donates $2M

Charles Woodson is donating $2 million US to the new University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital and Women's Hospital. The money will support pediatric research by The Charles Woodson Clinical Research Fund in the $754-million hospital, scheduled to open in 2012. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Calling in the Air Force

Saskatchewan's Grey Cup hopes riding on Canadian receivers

GREY CUP PREVIEW

Roughriders vs Alouettes

In order to beat the Montreal Alouettes in Sunday's Grey Cup, the Saskatchewan Roughriders will have to get continued offensive production from their talented receiving corps.

Dubbed as the Canadian Air Force, receivers Andy Fantuz, Chris Getzlaf and Rob Bagg all hauled in touchdown catches as the Riders qualified for the CFL final by downing the Calgary Stampeders 27-17 in Regina last Sunday.

"It wasn't a surprise to us," Bagg said about the trio's production in the West final. "It would have been more disappointing if we hadn't performed."

With the Alouettes hungry to erase last season's Grey Cup loss to the Stamps at home in Montreal, Bagg said the Riders will have to be at their best to emerge with a victory.

"They're obviously a veteran group that's incredibly talented and experienced," said the 24-year-old, who hails from Kingston, Ont. "We're going to have to play our best game, but I think we'll be able to do that and it's going to be an exciting one."

Chris Getzlaf

Getzlaf, who led the Riders with six receiving touchdowns in the regular season, gave a lot of credit to Saskatchewan quarterback Darian Durant for being able to hit open receivers with precise passes on a consistent basis.

"Darian does a great job of reading defences and finding who's open and we're able to create mismatches wherever need be and he's able to pick teams apart," said the 26-year-old Regina native.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dinos QB Glavic wins second Hec Crighton

Calgary quarterback Erik Glavic is Canadian university football's player of the year for the second time in three seasons, capping off a busy evening for the Dinos at the all-Canadian awards gala.

Erik Glavic

The native of Pickering, Ont., also became the first player ever to win the Hec Crighton Trophy with two different teams.

His teammate, Linden Gaydosh, won rookie of the year honours, while six Dinos — including Glavic — were named all-Canadians on Thursday in Quebec City.

The next piece of hardware up for grabs for Calgary? The Vanier Cup.

The Dinos (10-1) will battle the Queen's Gaels (10-1) on Saturday in Canadian university football's championship game at Université de Laval's PEPS Stadium.

Queen's, which upset the top-ranked Laval Rouge et Or in last week's Mitchell Bowl, also saw several of its players receive honours as four Gaels were named first-team all-Canadians.

Glavic, who won the Hec Crighton with the Saint Mary's Huskies in 2007 before transferring to Calgary, said he couldn't have won it without his offensive line.

"We were the best rushing offence in the country for a reason — because of those guys," he said after accepting the award.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calvillo gets outstanding player award

CFL Montreal Alouettes quarterback Anthony Calvillo is the CFL's outstanding player for the second straight year.

Calvillo received the award for the third time in his 16-year career Thursday at the CFL's awards banquet.

Calvillo received 44 of 55 ballots. Calgary Stampeders tailback Joffrey Reynolds, who ran for a league-best 1,504 yards, was the West Division finalist.

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NFL Broncos blow past Giants

JACK DEMARSEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Denver Broncos running back Knowshon Moreno runs past New York Giants linebacker Michael Boley in Denver on Thursday. The Broncos beat the Giants 26-6.

SCOREBOARD

CFL

SUNDAY'S GAME

97TH GREY CUP AT CALGARY
Montreal vs. Saskatchewan

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Ottawa 2 Columbus 1
Los Angeles at Vancouver N

FRIDAY'S GAMES
New Jersey at Boston
Buffalo at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders
Colorado at Minnesota
Chicago at Anaheim
Atlanta at Carolina,
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay
Toronto at Florida
CALGARY at Detroit
St. Louis at Nashville
San Jose at Edmonton
Dallas at Phoenix

NBA

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Orlando 93 Atlanta 76
Chicago at Utah N

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Washington at Miami
Cleveland at Charlotte
Atlanta at Philadelphia
Toronto at Boston
L.A. Clippers at Detroit
Dallas at Indiana
San Antonio at Houston
New York at Denver
Milwaukee at Oklahoma City-
Phoenix at Minnesota
Memphis at Portland
New Jersey at Sacramento

NFL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Dallas 24 Oakland 7
Green Bay 34 Detroit 12
Denver 26 N.Y. Giants 6

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Miami at Buffalo
Carolina at N.Y. Jets
Seattle at St. Louis
Tampa Bay at Atlanta
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Sosa sued by businessman in Dominican Republic

Sammy Sosa is being sued for $203,000 US by a businessman in the Dominican Republic who says the former major leaguer owes him for — among other things — commission on a house sale. The man also alleges that Sosa has not paid him for a luxury watch. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grey Cup a story of valiant teams

The vast majority of those millions who will tune in to watch the 97th Grey Cup on TV won't know a single player's name on either team prior to the kickoff. But that's not the point. Sure, Anthony Calvillo of the Alouettes has been a stalwart CFL quarterback for many seasons and his Roughrider counterpart Darian Durant has emerged as a bona fide star to deliver Saskatchewan to the cusp of gridiron glory yet again.

However, neither of these personalities, nor any of those who will take the field at Calgary's McMahon Stadium can come close to eclipsing the magnetism of their respective squads.

It's what makes the Grey Cup different and gives it heightened drama.

The team is paramount and the success of the November spectacle will rest upon a tale woven by helmeted representatives of vastly different communities that co-exist in a big country.

The Roughriders are the perennial long shots.

They are football's version of a Prairie David to the Goliaths of Eastern Canada. The club from Saskatchewan is publicly owned and its many investors have much more than an imaginary stake in the outcome of every match. Only three times in 17 tries have the Green Riders captured the coveted chalice.

Then again, the role of underdog charmingly adds to their mystique.

Meanwhile, Montreal's football team draws its nickname from a bird in Quebecois folklore.

The Alouettes, like the mythical Phoenix, have risen from the ashes to ward off extinction and make the CFL strong again in French-speaking Canada. Along with an agonizing absence from 1987-96 and a subsequent rise to power, the Als hatched a huge interest in collegiate and community football in the province. They have repaid their followers with consistent competitiveness if not Grey Cup championships — just five victories in 16 tries.

"(The Riders) are football's version of a Prairie David to the Goliaths of Eastern Canada."

So who to root for? Perhaps the answer is both teams. After all, that's the lure of the Grey Cup isn't it? It's all about a game, which has the ability to soar above rudimentary statistical analysis and a handful of star players who play for multimillion-dollar contracts.

The magic to be found in the Grey Cup has to do with valiant teams and the contribution they make to this country's fabled, football history.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

Sports in brief

ATP Andy Murray wasted 12 of 13 break points before overcoming Fernando Verdasco 6-4, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3) Thursday to close in on a semifinal spot at the ATP World Tour Finals. The result eliminates Verdasco from the tournament after his third straight round-robin loss.

FUNERAL Shaquille O'Neal has paid for the funeral of a five-year-old North Carolina girl after being moved by national news coverage of the case of Shaniya Davis, who police say was kidnapped and killed.

NFL The Pittsburgh Steelers have met with experienced quarterbacks Patrick Ramsey and Todd Bouman, a sign that injured backup Charlie Batch might be out longer than the team first expected.

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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Post-apocalyptic Pg 22

Viggo Mortesen stars in Cormac McCarthy's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel-turned-movie The Road, about a man wandering across America with his young son in search of food, shelter and a trace of hope in a post-apocalyptic world.

Movies Pg 24

Family is torn apart by post-traumatic stress in Brothers

Music Pg 26

Adam Lambert discusses the controversy surrounding him

Television Pg 29

Nico Archembault channels dancer Nureyev in biopic

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At a glance
The Road

The Road heavy ride

Viggo Mortensen plays a father wandering around a post-apocalyptic America with his son in The Road.

The Road
Director: John Hillcoat
Stars: Viggo Mortensen
Classification: STC
Rating:

On the web
- For movie photos, trailers and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

There's a proverb that reads: To know the road ahead, ask those coming back.

But what if the few that are travelling said passageway are only thieves and cannibals? That is the primarily the predicament that a pair of post-apocalypse survivors face in The Road.

For those uneducated in Cormac McCarthy's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel-turned-movie, The Road is a kind of a zombie movie without the zombies: A man (Oscar-nominee Viggo Mortensen) wanders across America with his young son (Kodi Smit-McPhee) in search of food, shelter and a trace of hope in an otherwise bleak, desolate world.

As the pair travel by foot across a deserted interstate highway heading the unknown west for wishful repose, they discover faith only in each other while stumbling across occasional survivors that display the precarious virtue of humanity.

Suffice it to say that Earth is now a destroyed wasteland — twisted metal litters the streets, forests have fallen and the sky is painted an oppressive smoky grey. For this reason, hiring director John Hillcoat (The Proposition) was a clever choice. When it comes to setting tone, Hillcoat is the Nick Drake of cinematography.

But while he defiantly captures the dystopian look and feel, the Australian auteur still struggles with transposing the acclaimed novel into its cinematic counterpart.

While Mortensen is captivating even with a sparse amount of dialogue and action, the rambling structure of the film will lack the pacing needed to deliver enough thrills for most fidgety filmgoers.

Drive with caution, The Road ahead is a heavy ride.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "WILD HOGS"
"RIOTOUSLY FUNNY!" Pete Hammond, BOXOFFICE MAGAZINE
"HILARIOUS!" Lisa Stanley, CBS RADIO

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Pitt backing Dark Void
According to The Hollywood Reporter, Reliance Big Entertainment and Brad Pitt's Plan B are developing a film version of the upcoming Capcom video game Dark Void, with Pitt in negotiations to star as the lead. IMDB.COM

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Ninja films gold mine of great action

InFocus
Richard Crouse
metronews.ca/infocus

There's much more to the ninja film genre than Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, columnist Richard Crouse says.

If the name Shô Kosugi doesn't conjure up images of whirling nunchucks or twirling throwing stars then your knowledge of ninja films probably doesn't extend much further than Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

Kosugi is the godfather of the modern ninja film, a Japanese martial artist who, during the 1980s, used his mad ninjitsu skills to battle every movie bad guy from evil terrorists to Mafia thugs and even possessed break dancers. When the "invisible warrior" craze petered out in the early '90s Kosugi became a star on Japanese TV and created a workout regimen called Ninjaerobics. This week, however, he returns to the big screen in Ninja Assassin, playing Ozunu, head of a dangerous cult that turns orphans into blood thirsty killing machines.

The movie that kicked off ninja mania was 1981's Enter the Ninja, a wild b-movie that features 19 minutes of hardcore ninja action in the first 20 minutes.

Kosugi is an evil ninja hired to take down a virtuous "white ninja" (Franco Nero, who didn't do any of his own fight scenes), who is protecting a friend's Philippine plantation.

The body count is high — 36 people get ninjaed, including one security guard who falls victim to the dreaded "mosquito spikes" — and even though the acting is terrible and the jokes a little flat it has, nonetheless, been described by one ninja fan as "fantastic crap."

Probably the most outlandish of the original '80s wave of ninja flicks is Ninja III: The Domination, which features a lead character described as completely normal, aside from her "exceptional extrasensory perception and preoccupation with Japanese culture."

In this one, an evil ninja attempts to avenge his death from beyond the grave, by possessing an innocent woman's body. Ninja III is packed with cool stunts — a throwing star is tossed by some very limber ninja toes — and we learn that a ninja can transfer his soul through his sword to another person.

Besides outrageous ninja action, the only thing these movies have in common is stiff acting, but acting isn't why you buy a ticket to see a movie called Rage of Honor.

If you want good acting look up Phillip Seymour Hoffman, but if you want to see a ninja take on a pick-up truck and win or slice a bad guy in half (sending his legs to and his torso fro), then Shô Kosugi is your man.

"Acting isn't why you buy a ticket to see a movie called Rage of Honor."

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

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Alba goes Belgian
After headlining Sin City and The Fantastic Four, Alba's just signed for The Insiders, the big-screen version of another comic series — this time one from, er, Belgium. IMDB.COM

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Movies in brief

AWARDS An Australia-based director's romance, a Taiwanese family drama and the story of a Chinese peasant guarding a cow are the unlikely trio of top contenders at the Chinese-language equivalent of the Oscars to be announced Saturday. Clara Law's Like a Dream bagged nine nominations, Leon Dai's No Pudeo Vivir Sin Ti had eight and Guan Hu's Cow seven at the Golden Horse Awards.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brothers in harm

Director makes bold casting choices

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Director Jim Sheridan burst onto the scene with the Oscar-winning My Left Foot in 1989 and since then has produced an eclectic body of work including In The Name Of The Father, the autobiographical In America, and the 50 Cent epic Get Rich Or Die Trying.

His latest movie is Brothers, a remake of the 2004 Danish film of the same name about a family torn apart by war and post-traumatic stress disorder. For Sheridan it was his first remake and as such a project that he walked into somewhat trepidatiously.

"I wasn't consciously trying to make my movie different," Sheridan told Metro. "I was only trying to answer questions in the original movie that were interesting to me."

Jim Sheridan's version of the film is — typical of his work — more family-oriented, focusing on how surviving a painful and spiritually challenging POW experience could change a soldier to the extent that his family can barely recognize him when he returns home. In the film, that soldier is played by Spider-Man himself, Tobey Maguire in a creative casting choice that works simply because audiences would never anticipate that Maguire would go through such brutal psychological changes. It was a casting decision made specifically by Sheridan to play with audience expectations. "That's why we cast Tobey, so that no one would expect it," revealed Sheridan.

That casting approach was also applied to the role of Maguire's ex-con brother who is surprisingly played by the typically gentle Jake Gyllenhaal. "Jake is often thought of as the lovable centre-of-attention character," said Sheridan. "I found it interesting to cast him as the edgy ex-con just to play with that image.

• Brothers hits theatres next Friday.

Tobey Maguire, left, and Jake Gyllenhaal star in Brothers.

Movie feature

Precious a sucker-punch film

Precious: Based on the novel Push **by Sapphire**

Director: Lee Daniels
Stars: Gabourney Sidibe, Mo'Nique
Classification: STC
Rating: ½

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Precious comes advertised with adjectives like "harrowing," and it is, but the discomfort mostly stems from director Lee Daniels' willingness — and even eagerness — to revel in grotesque urban-nightmare imagery. Over the course of the film, 16-year old Precious (Gabby Sidibe), who has already born two children by her own father, is subjected to an unending stream of verbal and physical abuse, most of it stemming from her ornery, shut-in mother (Mo'Nique).

The film's defenders claim that Daniels is merely displaying fidelity to his source material, but there's a line between empathy and exploitation, and Precious trips all over it.

Daniels' direction is pure sucker-punch cinema.

Cineplex | Empire | Landmark | Independent

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THIS PAGE COVERS MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., NOV. 27 TO THURS., DEC. 3. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

CANYON MEADOWS
Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

All About Steve (PG) Fri-Thu 3:40-6:45
Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-9:45
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:45
District 9 (14A) Fri-Thu 3:55-6:55-9:50
Fame (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30
G-Force (G) Fri-Thu 1:25
The Hangover (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:7-9:25
The Informant! (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-9:45
Inglourious Basterds (18A) Fri-Thu 9:10
The Invention of Lying (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:30-9:50
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:50-9:40
Love Happens (PG) Fri-Thu 4:05-7:05
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-9:35
Where the Wild Things Are (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-7:15
Whip It (PG) Fri-Thu 4:15-7:15
Zombieland (18A) Fri-Thu 1:35-3:50-7:10-9:55

CROWFOOT CROSSING
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

2012 (PG) Fri-Sat 12-2-3:40-6:30-7:10-10:10-10:35 Sun-Thu 12-2-3:40-6:30-7:45-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:20 Wed 4:10-7:20-10:20 Thu 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:50-5:10-7:35-10:05
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-2:40-5-7:25-9:40
The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-6:45-9:30
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-4:20-6:50-9:50
Old Dogs (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-2:30-4:50-7:20-9:45
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:40-10:10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:30-1-1:30-3:30-4-4:30-7-7:15-7:30-10-10:15-10:30 No Passes Wed 12:30-1:30-3:30-4-4:30-7-7:15-7:30-10-10:15-10:30 No Passes Thu 12:30-1-1:30-3:30-4-4:30-7-7:15-7:30-10-10:15-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1

EAU CLAIRE MARKET
200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

2012 (PG) Fri 6:30-10 Sat-Sun 2:50-6:30-10 Mon-Thu 8
An Education (PG) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:50-9:30 Mon-Tue 6:50-9:30 Wed 9:30 Thu 6:50-9:30
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3-7:10-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes Fri 7:20-10:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-7:20-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:20-10:10
Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire (14A) No Passes Fri 7:10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-7:10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri 6:40-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-3:20-6:40-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:40-9:50

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS
388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

2012 (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-1:30-2-4-5-6:50-7:50-9:15
The Blind Side (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-3:20-7:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:10-3:20-7-10
Couples Retreat (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:55-9:55
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-2:50-6:50-9:20
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-7:25-9:45
Law Abiding Citizen (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:15
Michael Jackson's This Is It (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:10
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:15-7:35-10:15
Old Dogs (G) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-3:40-7:05-9:40
Paranormal Activity (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:45
Planet 51 (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-3:50-6:40-9:10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12-12:30-1-3-3:30-4-6:45-7:15-8-9:35-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12-12:30-1-3-3:30-4-6:45-7:15-8-9:35-10:10

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

2012 (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-2-4:15-6:30-8
The Blind Side (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-7:10-10:10
Disney's A Christmas Carol (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-3:45-7-9:30
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3-6:50-9:20
The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:50
Ninja Assassin (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:20
Old Dogs (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:10-7:20-9:40
Planet 51 (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-6:40-9:10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3:30-4-6:45-7:15-10-10:30

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (18A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:20-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
The Damned United (14A) Fri 7:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:10-7:10 Mon-Thu 7:10
Pirate Radio (14A) Fri-Thu 9:10
The Royal Opera: Romeo and Juliet (STC) Sat 10

MOVIEDOME
1039 999 36 St. N.E., 403-248-2000

Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:45-9:50
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:50-6:40
De Dana Dan (STC) Fri-Thu 2-6:30-8:30
District 9 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40-6:50-9:40
Julie & Julia (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35
Kurbaan (14A) Fri-Thu 6:30-9:15
Pandorum (18A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-9:55
Surrogates (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-7:10:05
Where the Wild Things Are (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:55-6:55-9:45
Zombieland (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-7:05-10

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

2012 (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:30-8 Fri-Thu 11:30-3-6:45-10:15
Astro Boy (PG) Fri-Thu 11:45
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4-7:10-10:10
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-10:25
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10
Disney's A Christmas Carol: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 11:30-2-4:30-7-9:30
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:05-2:20-4:50-7:10-9:35 No Passes Wed 12:10-2:20-4:50-7:10-9:35 No Passes Thu 4-7:10-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) Fri-Tue 11:50-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:20 Wed 11:50-2:10-4:50-10:20 Thu 11:50-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:20
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:25-10:20
Old Dogs (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:45-2:15-4:40-7:05-9:40 No Passes Thu 3:45-7:05-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Paranormal Activity (14A) Fri-Wed 12:15-2:35-5-7:35-10:15 Thu 12:15-2:35-5-10:15
Pirate Radio (14A) Fri-Thu 4:20-7:20
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 11:55-2:15-4:45-7:05-9:45
The Road (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:15-10:10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3-3:30-4-6:45-7-7:15-9:50-10:05-10:15 No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30

PLAZA THEATRE
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W., 403-283-3636

Good Hair (PG) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat 12:30-2:30-5-7-9:30 Sun 12:30-2:30-7-9:30 Mon-Wed 5-7-9:30 Thu 4:30
Madholal Keep Walking (PG) Sun 4:30
New Year's Evil (STC) Thu 9:30
Philadelphia (STC) Thu 6:30

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

2012 (PG) Fri 12-3:30-7:10-10:15 Sat-Thu 12-2-3:30-6:35-7:10-10:15
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-7:15-10:30
The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:25-7:25-10:25
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:45-5:05-7:35-10:10
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:55-2:20-5-7:35-10
Heer Ranjha (STC) Fri-Thu 2:05-6:55
The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-7:20-9:50
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:25-3:20-6:45-9:45
Old Dogs (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-2:40-5:15-7:45-10:25
Paranormal Activity (14A) Fri-Thu 10:15
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Tue 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:40-10:05 Wed 5:10-7:40-10:05 Thu 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:40-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri 11:45-3:15-6:30-7:30-9:55-10:35 No Passes Sat-Tue 11:45-12:45-3:15-4:05-6:30-7:30-9:55-10:35 No Passes Wed 11:45-3:15-4:05-6:30-7:30-9:55-10:35 No Passes Thu 11:45-12:45-3:15-4:05-6:30-7:30-9:55-10:35 No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-3:35-7-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1

THE UPTOWN STAGE & SCREEN
612 8th Ave. S.W., 403-265-0120

Collapse (PG) Fri 4:40 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:45-4:40 Mon-Thu 4:40
The Road (14A) Fri 4:45-7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:15-4:45-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:10-9:30
A Serious Man (14A) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:30-7-9:15 Mon-Wed 7-9:15 Thu 9:15

WESTHILLS 10
165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

2012 (PG) Fri-Sun 11:50-3:10-6:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:05-8:20
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:55-7:05-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:50
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:20-4:35-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:15-7:40
Ninja Assassin (18A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-3:20-7:45-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:10-8
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:30-4:45-7:25-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:30-7:50
Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:05-4:05-7:15-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:50-7:20
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:35-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:10-9 No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-8:10

Billboard's top albums

1. Battle Studies, John Mayer; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. The Fall, Norah Jones; 4. Until the Whole World Hears, Casting Crowns; 5. Before I Self-Destruct, 50 Cent. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

After an over-the-top American Music Awards performance Adam Lambert has become the most controversial artist in the music business.

Centre of the storm

Controversy surrounds release of Adam Lambert's debut

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

Before last Sunday, Adam Lambert was famous for two things: Being the first openly gay American Idol contestant and losing the Idol title he clearly should have won.

But after an over-the-top American Music Awards performance — he kissed his male keyboardist and participated in a simulated sex act — he's suddenly become the most controversial artist in the music biz.

"I figured it would have got some reaction," says Lambert on the phone from New York. "But I didn't think it would get to this level."

While the spiky-haired singer didn't want to offend the AMA's television audience, and he says it wasn't pre-meditated, he does admit that he was "going with the motions, in the spirit of rock 'n' roll and I was having a good time."

"If anything can be said about my performance on American Idol is that it was different from week to week and I plan on conducting my career in the same way. I have a lot more tricks up my sleeve."
Adam Lambert

His performance got him booted from a Good Morning America appearance, and he may have alienated some of his more wholesome fans, but if Lambert really was channeling the spirit of rock''n' roll, he knows that controversy can do wonders for album sales.

His new disc, For Your Entertainment, was released earlier this week, so it's too early to tell if his stunt has paid off at the cash register (is there any doubt?), but it may not have needed the extra boost. The disc is easily the most eclectic post-Idol record ever released. It pays homage to everyone from Queen and David Bowie to Lady Gaga, who co-wrote some tracks on the album.

The title tune, now known as that song from the AMAs, is full of sexual innuendo — "Can you handle what I'm 'bout to do? Cause it's about to get rough for you," he sings — but Lambert wants people to know that it's the only hedonistic tune on the disc.

"That's the one song on the album dealing with a sex thing," says the articulate artist, almost defensively. "That's the one thing I'm concerned about. I don't want people to assume that's the kind of artist I'm going to be."

Problem is, it's not the only sex-themed song. In the Gaga-penned Fever he sings about a threesome, and other songs can be taken a number of different ways. But really, who cares? Lambert's done something that takes most other American Idol contestants at least two or three albums to do — he's developed his own identity.

It may be a polarizing one, but he admits, that's fine with him. "People love me or hate me and that's the way it will be for the rest of my career," he says.

That love-hate relationship is made a bit more complex, however, because he is gay. He knows a lot of Americans are still uncomfortable with the idea. "People say 'we're ready for it'," he explains, "but when it (actually happens) they're not ready."

Of course, that's not going to stop him from playing, and performing, the way he wants to. "If anything can be said about my performance on American Idol is that it was different from week to week and I plan on conducting my career in the same way," he says. "I have a lot more tricks up my sleeve."

Be very afraid of ACTA secrets

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

What you're about to read is not something cooked up by some whacko group of conspiracy theorists.

Agents from countries around the world — the U.S., the U.K., the EU, Switzerland, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Singapore, Mexico, Morocco and, yes, Canada — are secretly drafting the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement.

"If Charlie the border guard suspects that even one of the music files on your Nano was obtained illegally, welcome to the world of search and seizure without the benefit of a lawyer."

Despite the cone of silence demanded by the Obama administration on "national security" reasons, some details on ACTA have leaked out.

• ISPs will be turned into copyright cops and be required by law to filter out anything they think might be pirated material. This will mean monitoring sites that offer user-created material. Given the enormity and complexity of that requirement, consider the chill that will cast over music sites, even perfectly legal ones. Could many of them be forced out of business? What about bands who give away music?

• If you're accused three times (just accused, not convicted) by your ISP of using their pipes for illegally downloading copyrighted material like music, your household will be banned from the Internet for a year and forced to pay a fine. Little Susie thrice caught with her hand in the BitTorrent jar? The whole family will suffer.

• Want to make a back-up copy of that DVD you bought by bypassing its copy-protection scheme? All DRM cracking — even for legal reasons — will be illegal.

• Want to use identity-blocking software to maintain online anonymity? Not anymore you won't.

• But I saved the best for last. Customs officers of signatory countries will have the right to force you to prove that all the data on your iPod or laptop was acquired legally. If Charlie the border guard suspects that even one of the music files on your Nano was obtained illegally, welcome to the world of search and seizure without the benefit of a lawyer. And given that Canada is on America's "priority watch list" because they think we're pirates on the magnitude of China, Russia and Indonesia, I'm nervous.

Who's behind this? We're not sure. Canadian record labels were "consulted" but haven't been involved in the final negotiations.

Bottom line is that ACTA could be in place by 2010 and you won't be able to do a damn thing about it. Federal trade agreements don't require parliamentary approval. One signature from the appropriate government representative and it's the law.

Be afraid. Very afraid.

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Oprah to air White House special

Barack Obama, Oprah. The first family is having a holiday guest over to the White House: Oprah Winfrey. Christmas at the White House: An Oprah Primetime Special, will air Sunday, Dec. 13, on ABC. TV GUIDE.COM

Lady Gaga tackles the Fame monster

SANAA BEN SALEM
Metro World News

Love her or hate her, no one can remain insensitive to the charm of Lady Gaga. Wednesday, the American songstress released The Fame Monster, her collectors album. Metro World News caught up with 2009's biggest pop phenomenon.

Q You are releasing a album called The Fame Monster, which is a reedition of you album the Fame, why should people buy it?

A For the eight new tracks. The Fame Monster is like a work of art — I wanted to create something that went above and beyond music. I also attached a lot of importance to the photos on the album cover.

Q The pictures were taken by Frenchman Hedi Slimane. How do you manage to have such an individual sense of style yet create music that is loved and listen to be everyone?

A Anyone can appreciate my music but I only work with certain people. For example, it is the director of I Am Legend Francis Lawrence which filmed the video for Bad Romance and I am about to work with British photographer Nick Knight.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Q You are a considered a global icon, is that something you find hard to deal with?

A Not at all. I have always known what I was getting myself into and the consequences my actions would have. Nowadays, you cannot be an anonymous popstar, unless you are incredibly stupid. If my success keeps going strong, I know exactly where I'm going and I love every minute of it.

Q You began your music career writing for the Pussycat Dolls and Britney Spears. Is that something you would still consider doing?

A Not really to be honest. I always saw that as a way to develop my own career.

Q You are only 23 years old, with a hugely successful album and career. How do you see the near future?

A I am an artist before anything else. I would love to invest my time into learning different forms of art.

Blatz feeling at home

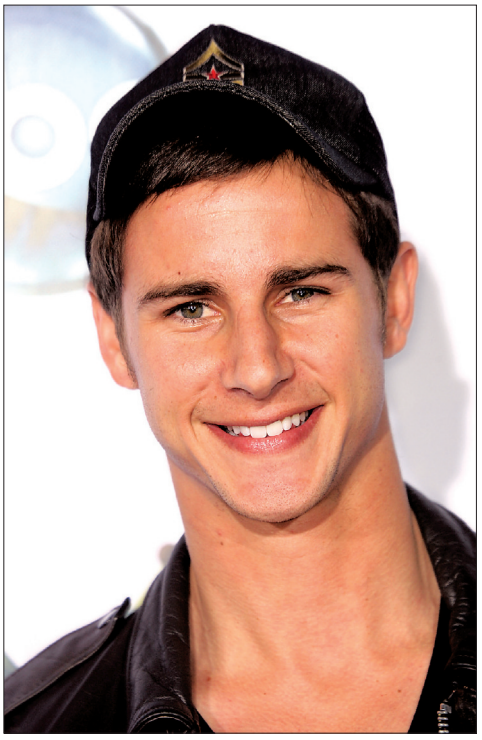
Not that long ago, Kelly Blatz worked at a Starbucks in Burbank, Calif., fetching coffee for executives who worked at the neighbourhood TV and film studios. As he puts it, "I used to serve all the people I work for now."

Blatz just wrapped production on a second season of the Disney XD series Aaron Stone (Family Channel). He was in Toronto earlier this week to promote his latest project, the sci-fi 'tween drama Skyrunners (premiering Friday, Nov. 27 on Family).

In the TV movie, Blatz plays high school senior Nick Burns, who, together with his younger brother Tyler (Joey Pollari), discovers a UFO has landed in their town. The boys seize the saucer as their own personal spacecraft, and soon, "weird stuff starts happening to Tyler," says Blatz.

Not surprising, given that Tyler has been abducted by aliens. Nick has to rescue his brother, distract a persistent government agent and appease an uptight girlfriend — all before he graduates.

The TV movie — the first for the U.S. cable channel Disney XD — has an odd history. It all started when Blatz won the lead role of video game ace and secret superhero Aaron Stone by accidentally pulling a fire alarm at his audition. Blatz walked in and sheepishly admitted to the panel of producers, casting agents and network executives that he was the dummy responsible for the racket. The panel smiled, looked at each other and knew they'd found their klutzy super hero.



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Kelly Blatz stars in Skyrunners, premiering Friday.

Most young Canadian actors dream of one day making it in Hollywood. Blatz — born and raised in Burbank, where he could walk to three or four major Hollywood studios — boarded a plane and flew to Toronto to shoot Aaron Stone.

When the pilot episode was done, Disney execs told their likable young star that they wanted him for Skyrunner.

"There was this amazing script, all about alien invasions, very Spielberg-esque," he says. He went straight into production on Skyrunner, also shot in Toronto.

That was in the summer of 2007. Production was halted on the TV-movie while Blatz finished the first season of Stone. When the filmmakers went to resume work on Skyrunners over a year later, Blatz's co-star, Minneapolis teen Pollari, had grown "like a foot and his voice changed and everything, says Blatz. The filmmakers wrote that into the plot, turning puberty "into the coolest movie special effect ever."

Most of the other actors on Skyrunners are Canadian. Linda Kash — best known as the angel from those long-running Philadelphia Cream Cheese ads — plays the boys' mom. Vancouver's Conrad Coates (Kyle XY) plays the government agent tailing the teens and the aliens.

Toronto has become something of a branch plant for the thriving Disney 'tween sitcom factory. Aaron Stone has already wrapped production on a second season in Ontario's capital. Earlier this fall, the Jonas Brothers, including younger bonus Jonas Frankie, quietly shot a sequel to the 2008 summer hit Camp Rock in and around the city. Demi Lovato (Sonny with a Chance) reunited with the Jonas boys on that venture, as did Toronto-native Jasmine Richards (Naturally, Sadie).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hoarders sheds light on shame-filled disorder

TELEVISION For years, no one on Crest Drive paid much attention to the little white house with pink trim.

But folks here were shocked in early October when police forced their way into the home and discovered the 72-year-old owner, Carina DeOcampo, dead, surrounded by two metres of garbage that packed the house.

DeOcampo was a hoarder. "It was unbelievable," said neighbour David Collins, who peered in the front door after DeOcampo's body was removed.

This year, compulsive hoarders are in the spotlight. Books, movies and TV's Hoarders — a popular A&E reality show that begins its second season Monday — have all brought the disorder out of its shame-filled past.

On the Hoarders TV show, people with the disorder recognize they have a problem, then work with psychiatrists and organization experts to help clean up.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SNL injects some new blood into guest host lineup
Saturday Night Live is jumping on the Twilight bandwagon. The show will welcome New Moon star Taylor Lautner as well as Gossip Girl leading lady Blake Lively and General Hospital's newest hunk, James Franco, next month. TVGUIDE.COM

So You Think You Can Dance Canada winner Nico Archembault embodies famed dancer Rudolf Nureyev in the new Bravo! biopic.

Canadian dancer brings sex appeal, talent to Nureyev role

JOHN KEILLOR
for Metro Canada

Filmmaker Moze Mossanen brings international intrigue and artistic genius together in his new Bravo! production Nureyev, about the great Russian dancer who famously, dangerously defected in a Paris airport during the Cold War, and then revolutionized ballet in the West while evading Soviet recapture.

Nureyev airs on Bravo! on Tuesday night

Rudolf Nureyev's wild elfin beauty, his genius and his limitless technique present a self-evident casting nightmare, but lithe Nico Archembault, winner of 2008's So You Think You Can Dance competition, has the necessary talent and the charismatic handsomeness.

Still, playing Nureyev is a daunting task.

"He remade the male dancer's role," says Archembault. "Before Nureyev, men on stage were mostly props that women danced around," he said.

"Nureyev changed everything. He was physically one of the greatest dancers who ever lived."

"(Nureyev) was physically one of the greatest dancers who ever lived."
Nico Archembault

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FRIDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/27/09	243	317 3 CFCN	etalk	Access H.	Colbert Christmas: Gift		*The 40-Year-Old Virgin* ★★★ (2005, Romance-Comedy)				CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	The Office	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Friends
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Supernanny (N)		Ugly Betty (HDTV) (N)		20/20
	245	306 6 CBRT	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ron James	Rick Mercer	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	*Ice Age: The Meltdown* ★★ (2006, Comedy)				NUMB3RS "Jacked"		News Hour
	246	- 8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		The Jay Leno Show		Supernanny (N)		Ugly Betty (HDTV) (N)		Your City
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Access H.	The Doctors (N)		Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		Medium (HDTV)		NUMB3RS
	-	374 14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Wash. Week	McLaughlin	Bill Moyers Journal (N)		NOW on PBS	Being Served	India
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	*The 40-Year-Old Virgin* ★★★ (2005, Romance-Comedy)				Jay Leno Show
	-	373 22 KAYU	The Office	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	*Ice Age: The Meltdown* ★★ (2006, Comedy)				News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Carbon Hunters		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Carbon Hunter
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Tonight		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	NBA Basketball		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Off the Record	Cagefighting		
	408	418 27 net	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey San Jose Sharks at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Connected		Flames, Hour
family	552	543 20 YTV	True Jackson, VP (N)		*Material Girls* ★ (2006, Comedy-Drama) Hilary Duff.				Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	That's-Weird
	557	541 39 FAM	Aaron Stone	Aaron Stone	Aaron Stone	*Skyrunners* (2009, Science Fiction)			(10:04) *Max Keeble's Big Move* (2001)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Bobby Flay	Chef Abroad	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits		Howie Do It	Howie Do It	Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	Law Order
	520	505 35 DISC	Man vs. Wild (N)		Earthshocks: Hyper Hurricanes		Daily Planet		Man vs. Wild		Worst Driver
	628	584 43 SPIKE	Band-Brothers	Band of Brothers "Points" (HDTV)			Disorderly Conduct: Video		Disorderly Conduct: Video		I Bet You Will
	522	516 45 HIST	Go Deep "Underwater"		Battles BC		Cold Blood (N)		When Disaster Strikes		Underworld
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *Unforgiven* ★★★★ (1992, Western)				*Escape From Alcatraz* ★★★ (1979, Suspense) Clint Eastwood.				
	581	566 102 MTV	The City	After	The Hills	Peak Season	1 girl 5 gays	Cribs	Jessi in Kenya	Over the Bolts	The Hills

SATURDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/28/09	243	317 3 CFCN	Sid vs. Alexander		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Russell Peters: Red, White		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		Once Upon a Time in Toronto		Once Upon a Time in Toronto		Trendy Zone	Chinese Rest.	Most Amazing
	-	371 5 KXLY	(6) College Football Regional Coverage. (HDTV) (Live)					The Insider (N)	Entertainment Tonight		ReGenesis
	245	306 6 CBRT	NHL Hockey		NHL Hockey Edmonton Oilers at Vancouver Canucks. (HDTV) (Live)					HNIC: After Hours	
	244	338 7 CICT	renegadepress	Jane Show	Project Runway Canada		*Recipe for a Perfect Christmas* (2005, Romance-Comedy)				News Final (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	My RONA Home (DVS)		Glenn Martin	Out There	*A Lover's Revenge* (2005, Suspense) Alexandra Paul. (DVS)				The City Show
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Scrubs	Grey's Anatomy		The Good Wife "Fixed"		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		48 Hours Myst.
	-	374 14 KSPS	Radio City Christmas		Andre Rieu Live in Dresden: Wedding at the Opera				Ed Sullivan's Rock and Roll Classics: The 60s		
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Take to Heart	CSI: NY "The Box"		Madagascar	*The Incredibles* ★★★ (2004, Adventure)			
	-	373 22 KAYU	House "Finding Judas"		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted		News
news	502	390 15 CBC	National	Mansbridge	The World of Haute Couture		National	News: At Issue	National	Mansbridge	Haute Couture
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	Awards	SportsCentre	SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)				ATP Tennis World Tour Masters 1000: First Semifinal.		
	408	418 27 net	Soccer				World Sport	UEFA Champ.	Saturday Night Poker		Sportsnet Con.
family	552	543 20 YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Sorry-No Head	Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Overruled!	Suite Life	Zoey 101	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	*Richie Rich* ★★ (1994, Comedy)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Chopped "Bring It!"		Top Chef: Las Vegas		The F Word		Dear Food Network		Chopped
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds		CSI: Miami "Payback"		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	Howie Do It	Howie Do It	The Guard (HDTV)		*Christmas Caper* (2007, Comedy-Drama)				*Premonition*
	520	505 35 DISC	Canada's Worst Driver		Time Warp		Criss Angel Mindfreak (N)		Canada's Worst Driver		Destroyed
	628	584 43 SPIKE	*Forrest Gump* ★★★ (1994, Drama) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Gary Sinise.						*Road House* ★★ (1989, Action), Sam Elliott		
	522	516 45 HIST	Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Ultimate Engineering		Cities of the Underworld		*The Insider* ★★★ (1999, Drama)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *The Green Mile* ★★★ (1999, Drama) Tom Hanks, David Morse.						*Demolition Man* ★★ (1993, Science Fiction)		
	581	566 102 MTV	Peak Season	After	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	1 girl 5 gays	Peak Season	After	After

SUNDAY

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/29/09	243	317 3 CFCN	Corner Gas	Corner Gas	CSI: Miami "Head Case"		The Amazing Race 15		Desperate Housewives		CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	Without a Trace		Aaram (N)	Chardi Kalaa	Most Amazing	Over the Bolts	Away From Here (N)		TBA
	-	371 5 KXLY	News	Explorer TV	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		Brothers
	245	306 6 CBRT	Heartland (HDTV) (DVS)		*Elf* ★★★ (2003, Comedy) Will Ferrell, James Caan.				CBC News: The National		fifth estate
	244	338 7 CICT	16:9 Picture	Prod. Parker	(8:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		The Simpsons	Cleveland Sh	Family Guy (N)	American Dad	News Final (N)
	246	- 8 CKAL	Survivorman (DVS)		My RONA Home (DVS)		Extreme Makeover: Home		Conviction Kitchen		Most Amazing
	-	372 12 KREM	KREM 2 News at 6 (N)		60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		The Amazing Race 15		*A Dog Named Christmas* (2009, Drama)		
	-	374 14 KSPS	Celtic Woman: Songs From the Heart				A Tale of Two Cities Charles Dickens story.				MI-5
	-	370 16 KHQ	(6:15) NFL Football Pittsburgh Steelers at Baltimore Ravens.					Mark Few	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: NY
	-	373 22 KAYU	House		Brothers	'Til Death	The Simpsons	Cleveland Sh	Family Guy (N)	American Dad	News
news	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Surviving Mumbai (N)		Mystery of the Floating Feet		CBC News: The National		Surviving
	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live		Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		State of Union
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Weekend		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
sports	400	400 21 TSN	CFL Football		Postgame		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		ATP Tennis World Tour Masters 1000: Final.		
	408	418 27 net	(6:30) Boxing				UFC: Access	PartyPoker.net	Sportsnet Connected		Ult. Fighter
family	552	543 20 YTV	*Christmas With the Kranks* ★★ (2004, Comedy)					SpongeBob	Family Biz (N)		Survive This
	557	541 39 FAM	(7:01) Jonas	Overruled!	Suite Life	Zoey 101	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	*Lost & Found* ★ (1999, Romance-Comedy)		
cable variety	603	561 25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Dinner: Impossible		Restaurant Makeover		Get on Plate	Food Detective	Iron Chef Am.
	615	520 26 A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		(10:01) Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds
	617	522 32 SHOW	NCIS "Caged" (HDTV)		Cra$h & Burn "Trust"		*Recipe for a Perfect Christmas* (2005, Romance-Comedy)				Weeds
	520	505 35 DISC	Waking the Baby Mammoth		MythBusters		Anthony Bourdain		Waking the Baby Mammoth		
	628	584 43 SPIKE	*Star Wars VI: Return*		*Star Wars IV: A New Hope* ★★★★ (1977, Science Fiction) Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher.						*Star Wars V*
	522	516 45 HIST	(6) *The Scorpion King*		The Real Scorpion King				*The Mummy Returns* (2001, Adventure)		
	-	- 47 AMC	(4) *The Godfather, Part III*		The Prisoner "Anvil; Darling" (HDTV)				The Prisoner "Anvil; Darling" (HDTV)		
	581	566 102 MTV	Cribs	Cribs	Real World-Road Rules		1 girl 5 gays	Over the Bolts	Peak Season	Peak Season	Real World-Rd

Tequila sex tape

TMZ.com is reporting that MTV reality star Tila Tequila is the latest celebrity at the centre of a sex tape scandal. A 10-second clip surfaced on a website. **POPEATER.COM**

Going Out

Mix of Six

Enmax Street Festival

When: Friday to Sunday
Where: Stephen Avenue, Olympic Plaza

Three blocks of Stephen Avenue will be transformed into a hub of sounds, sights and entertainment for the whole family with local musicians taking the stage as a free event for the Grey Cup Festival.

ACAD Winter Show

When: Friday to Sunday
Where: Main Mall, ACAD 1407 -14th Ave. NW

Free event showcasing the talents of ACAD students. For more information please visit acad.ab.ca.

Hidden Gems Film Festival

When: On until Sunday
Where: Calgary Public Library

Showcasing the rich diversity within the Indian culture for only $8 to $10 at the door.

Dance Montage 2009

When: Friday to Sunday
Where: University Theatre - 210 University Court NW

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Once Upon a Christmas

When: on until Dec. 20
Where: Heritage Park

Children's maze, gingerbread man decorating, carolers and much more holiday cheer. Visit heritagepark.ca.

Put Yourself in Our Boots Safety Campaign

When: Saturday
Where: Stix Sports Bar

This special fundraising and awareness event include dinner, a silent auction and much more. $10. Visit jpmf.ca.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

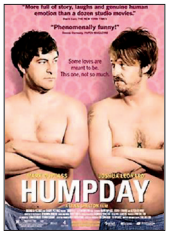
1 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show

TV Santa's granted your wish — a little early this year. On Dec. 1, CBS will broadcast a holiday-themed pageant from the house of hot lingerie. Heidi Klum hosts and the Black Eyed Peas perform. Models? Marisa Miller, Alessandra Ambrosio, Doutzen Kroes and Miranda Kerr, to name a few. Check local listings for air times.

2 Fantastic Mr. Fox

FILM Like a smack in the face of all the CGI-driven drivel comes this old-school, stop-motion animation from one of the quirkiest directors working in Hollywood. Wes Anderson updates the beloved Roald Dahl story with a little help from star voiceovers — including George Clooney, Meryl Streep and Bill Murray.

3 Humpday

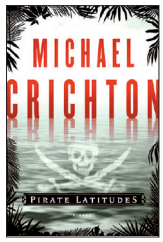


DVD Straight guy meets straight guy friend after 10 years, go to a party, get drunk and decide to make arty gay porn film starring themselves. What sounds like a bromance to end all bromances is actually just a premise for a journey through male egotism. It helps that there are plenty of laughs on the way. Starring Mark Duplass and Joshua Leonard.

4 I Dreamed a Dream: Susan Boyle

ALBUM If her dream was releasing the year's biggest-selling album of the year, it may just come true. The Britain's Got Talent phenomenon has been topping pre-sales lists for weeks and is already breaking records across the pond. As for the album itself, there are some unusual choices for cover songs, such as the Rolling Stones classic Wild Horses.

5 Pirate Latitudes: Michael Crichton



BOOK Discovered by an assistant on the late author's computer, Latitudes is the writer's first posthumous novel. But this is no scientific thriller on the lines of Jurassic Park. As the title suggests, the story revolves around piracy in Jamaica in the 17th century. He should have just called it Pirates of the Caribbean IV.

6 Jack & Coke: Artie Lange

COMEDY Nothing's sacred for funnyman Lange. Not even the late great Heath Ledger. The filth flies in this live stand-up album from The Howard Stern Show regular, as everyone from Tony Romo to Mike Tyson turn toast on Lange's grilling machine. Really, the punch lines will leave you hungry for more.

7 Appshopper.com

TECH Bit of an app-aholic? Stay on top of the latest sales and deals on apps through this handy, little website. Price drops are updated regularly and you can be notified through RSS or email.

Ministry not appealing Polanski bail

Roman Polanski will be moved from jail to house arrest at his Alpine chalet as soon as he posts $4.5 million bail and meets other conditions set by a Swiss court, the Justice Ministry said Thursday.

The ministry said it would not appeal a decision by the Swiss Criminal Court to release the 76-year-old director, adding that he can leave jail after his pays bail, surrenders his identity documents and has an electronic monitoring system installed and tested.

The announcement means Polanski will be able to continue his fight against extradition to the United States in a 1977 sex case from the comfort of his $1.6 million chalet in the exclusive winter resort of Gstaad. Authorities in Los Angeles want him sentenced for having sex with a 13-year-old girl.

``He must not leave this house,'' the ministry said in a statement. Should he violate the terms of release, the bail will be forfeited to the Swiss government.

Ministry spokesman Folco Galli said the release would be handled quietly.

``We don't want to show him off like an exotic animal,'' he told The Associated Press.

GETTY IMAGES

Roman Polanski.

The bail decision was a major win for the director of Rosemary's Baby, Chinatown and The Pianist after a series of legal setbacks following his Sept. 26 arrest on a U.S. warrant as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival.

Polanski was accused of raping the girl after plying her with champagne and a Quaalude pill during a modeling shoot in 1977. He was initially indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molesting and sodomy, but he pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of unlawful sexual intercourse.

In exchange, the judge agreed to drop the remaining charges and sentence him to prison for a 90-day psychiatric evaluation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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AMVIC LICENSED

Best song of the decade

Beyoncé Knowles' song Crazy In Love has been voted the best song of the decade. The singer beat MGMT, whose 2008 song Time To Pretend came second in NME magazine Top 100 tracks of the decade list. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Hilfiger sells Connecticut mansion for $20M US

DESIGNER DIGS Fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger's luxury estate in Connecticut has sold for $20 million US, about $8 million below its original asking price.

Sotheby's International Realty says the 20,000-square-foot Greenwich mansion is being purchased by a family who toured it in September. The mansion has eight bedrooms and nine bathrooms. It also features a 2,000-bottle wine cellar, indoor basketball court, sauna, massage room with a waterfall and home theatre. Hilfiger purchased the home in 2005 for $18 million. It had been on the market since February 2008. The designer has moved to New York City.

The mansion is located on Connecticut's Gold Coast, a bastion of suburban perfection that's home to Martha Stewart and is considered the inspiration for the Stepford Wives.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Klein tackles carbon emissions

Naomi Klein says her next book delves into the simmering debate over how best to rein in carbon emissions, a highly divisive issue she predicts will explode at the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference, set for Copenhagen next month.

The Toronto-based journalist and activist says advocates for market-based solutions like carbon trading will face-off against those who believe a long-standing "climate debt" obliges rich countries — which produce most pollution — to fund sustainable environmental futures for poorer countries, which suffer the most ecological damage.

"It is absolutely going to be a war in Copenhagen," Klein says. "I'm hearing more and more young environmentalists saying, 'We think the way to solve this crisis is to leave fossil fuels in the ground,' and this is particularly important in the Canadian context where we are extracting some of the absolutely most lethal, dirtiest forms of fossil fuels in the oil sands and the tarsands."

Klein says the issue has galvanized young people the same way the anti-corporate movement did 10 years ago.

The acclaimed writer documented that time in her debut book, No Logo, a call-to-arms that was re-released this week with an updated introduction. The new material includes Klein's take on the Wall Street bailout and the rise of the Obama Brand, which she deems "the most powerful brand in the world right now."

Klein credits the tome's mammoth success to good timing, noting that it was published just as tens of thousands of protesters shut down a meeting of the World Trade Organization in Seattle.

Today, Klein says that same grassroots spirit is fuelling a battle over the environment at the upcoming UN summit. She notes that business attempts to turn carbon into a tradable commodity are drawing strong opposition from environmentalists in much the same way brand bullies elicited the rage of anti-corporate activists in the '90s. "People are rightfully suspicious of the idea of trusting our most pressing challenge as a species to these same market forces," she says.

Klein says she'll be in Copenhagen to research her planned book, as well as speak at a people's summit and report daily for several alternative publications. She says she'll put much of the material up on her website.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ED KASHI

Author Naomi Klein.

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Hey, as long as she's not using it for singing

Avril Lavigne has her own and everyone else's tongues wagging after she was spotted kissing a mystery man in New York, reports RadarOnline.com. Lavigne was seen passionately making out with him on Tuesday. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

CBS 'double standard' over Adam Lambert smooch angers GLAAD

MEDIA 'CIRCUS' Madonna and Britney yes, Adam Lambert and male keyboardist no?

On Wednesday's Early Show appearance by Lambert, producers blurred the singer's open-mouth kiss with a male keyboardist during his controversial performance at Sunday's AMAs. Seconds later, an undistorted clip of Madonna smooching Britney Spears at the 2003 MTV VMAs ran.

What gives? A CBS rep explains: "We gave this some real thought. The Madonna image is very familiar and has appeared countless times including many times on morning television. The Adam Lambert image is a subject of great current controversy, has not been nearly as widely disseminated, and for all we know, may still lead to legal consequences."

Jarrett Barrios, President of GLAAD, called the edits "an unfortunate double standard that is applied to openly gay performers."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Miley admits Efron crush in order to relate to teen fans

SORRY, KEEP TRYING Miley Cyrus is trying to relate to her teenage fans despite her successful career, and she's found just the thing. "There are not many things about me that are like a normal teenage girl. But the one normal teenage girl thing is that I think Zac Efron is the hottest person in the world," the Hannah Montana star said in a interview with XM Satellite Radio. "I really, really like him. And it's weird. It's weird because he's my friend."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Love blasts Spears dad

WHAT SHE TALKING ABOUT Courtney Love is taking to her Twitter account again, alleging that Britney Spears was molested by her father. "Britney's dad molested her," she writes. "Imagine the father that molested you owning you for slavery while you're forced to sing songs picked for their sexual content every night. Insane right?"

METRO WORLD NEWS

Rihanna's advice on dealing with the rumour mill

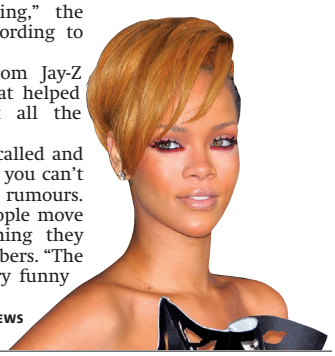
UMBRELLA-HA-HA-HA Rihanna admits that all the speculation from earlier in her career that she was having an affair with Jay-Z had a deep effect on her, and spills the beans on how she was able to overcome reading nasty rumours about herself in the tabloids.

"It was like, 'Of course she had to give Jay-Z oral sex to get that deal.

"That rumour was everywhere in Barbados and it was so disgusting," the singer says, according to Yahoo! News.

But advice from Jay-Z himself was what helped her move past all the press.

"One day, he called and he was like, 'Yo, you can't buy into these rumours. You can't let people move you with anything they say,'" she remembers. "The rumours got very funny to me after that."



METRO WORLD NEWS

Kellan's playground kiss-and-tell

IT'S OK IF THIS STORY MAKES YOU FEEL A BIT CREEPY Twilight hunk Kellan Lutz has always been a hit with the ladies, ever since his very first kiss at the tender age of seven, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 24-year-old actor, a former model, confesses he locked lips with a girl for the first time during a playground game of truth or dare — and his technique was a winner from the start. He tells People.com, "I was playing truth or dare when I had my first kiss. I was probably seven. I learned to hold the girl and I won as best kisser."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets

Neil Patrick Harris wants a nomination but is afraid to ask for it, John Cleese wants his fans to show more devotion, and Sandra Bernhard has to replenish her Thanksgiving dessert supplies.

- @ActualNPH COUGH! COUGH! people's choiceCOUGH! awardCOUGH! Sorry, must be allergies...
- @JohnCleese Why aren't there more lookalikes of me? Rush out, and get surgery now!
- @SandraBernhard honey we are baking another pumpkin pie because we were up all night stealing pieces eating and going back to sleep

METRO WORLD NEWS

Diaz dishes on aging

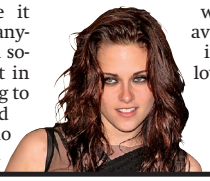
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MAALOX Cameron Diaz actually enjoys the aging process, she admits to Look magazine.

"I love getting older! I feel more self-possessed, which I think allows you to be more sexy, more confident. It's also natural that as I get older I play mothers and wives and be part of different kinds of films."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Twilight star continues to bemoan the celebrity life

YEAH... STILL DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR YOU Kristen Stewart admits that the huge success of the Twilight series has made it hard for her to have anything close to a normal social life. "You're caught in this dilemma of wanting to be a normal person and knowing that if you do go out and have fun that it might turn out to be a big story," she says. "I don't leave my hotel room. That's the only way to avoid being followed."



METRO WORLD NEWS

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BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Friday Possible snow 3 C / -2 C
Saturday Partly Cloudy 0 C / -8 C
Sunday Mostly sunny 1 C / -7 C

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist – Breakfast Television
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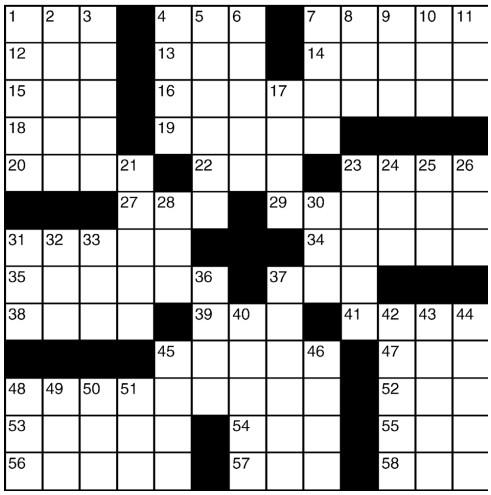

ACROSS

1 Confucian path
4 "Phooey!"
7 Enjoyed immensely
12 Tattooist's need
13 Kimono closer
14 Coup group
15 Literary collection
16 Dry red table wine
18 Agt.
19 Stranger
20 Graph line
22 One side of the Ural Mts.
23 Responsibility
27 Father and son
29 Fairly recent
31 Perpendicular, at sea
34 "Gasoline —"
35 Wicked
37 Regret
38 Versifier
39 Have bills
41 Aquarium
45 Pirate ship punishment site
47 Bill's partner
48 Weed used to make wine
52 Anderson's "High —"
53 Where the elated walk
54 Dead heat
55 My country, 'tis of thee
56 Capital of Belarus
57 Prior to
58 Corral

DOWN

1 Pageant winner's topper
2 Building wing
3 Giraffe's cousin
4 Legendary TV clown
5 Tolerates
6 Certain Indian
7 Open some
8 Large cask
9 Conclusion
10 Salt Lake athlete
11 Crony
17 Flowerless plant
21 Roundtree role
23 Little hooter
24 Zero
25 Work with
26 Bashful
28 Ostrich's kin
30 — de cologne
31 Cleo's slayer
32 Story of a lifetime?
33 Compass dir.
36 Lounge around
37 "The Bathers" painter
40 . .Ralph of "The Waltons"
42 Misbehave
43 Lasso part
44 Islam sacred text
45 Fringe benefit
46 Banjo supporter
48 Comical DeLuise
49 Blackbird
50 A Bobbsey twin
51 Insult

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

6	7						9	4
			6		7			
8		4				7		3
		3	5		4	1		
	8						4	
		7	2		1	9		
7		6				2		8
			1		9			
2	3						5	9

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

1	7	5	3	4	9	8	6	2
3	4	8	7	2	6	5	9	1
2	9	6	1	5	8	4	7	3
4	3	7	8	9	2	6	1	5
9	5	2	6	1	3	7	8	4
6	8	1	5	7	4	3	2	9
5	2	4	9	6	7	1	3	8
8	6	9	4	3	1	2	5	7
7	1	3	2	8	5	9	4	6

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Hasty Haddock with Tomato and Red Onion Salsa

INGREDIENTS:

1 red onion, halved and thinly sliced
4 tomatoes, halved and cores removed
1/4 tsp (1 ml) crushed chili flakes
1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped candied ginger
1 tsp (5 ml) sugar
1 tbsp (15 ml) tomato paste
1 tbsp (15 ml) red wine vinegar
3 tbsp (45 ml) olive oil
4 haddock fillets

METHOD:

1. Separate onion slices into shreds and put into bowl. Thinly slice tomatoes and add to bowl. Sprinkle in chili flakes, ginger and sugar, then stir in tomato paste and vinegar with seasoning to taste. Stir in 2 tbsp (25 ml) of olive oil and set aside.
2. Preheat broiler to high. Lightly oil broiler pan, then add haddock portions, skin side up, and brush with a little of remaining oil. Cook 3 minutes. Turn fish, brush with remaining oil and cook 3 minutes or until cooked through.
3. Divide salsa among four plates and lay haddock portions on top. Garnish with mustard and cress and serve immediately. aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Sort out your money situation today. You don't have to be too ruthless about it but you do have to make serious changes.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
What occurs today will take you by surprise and maybe even test your faith in someone you thought you could trust. Stand back from the situation.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Do you go out and have fun or stay in and get some work done today? If you are smart you will sacrifice short-term enjoyment for long-term fun.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You have thought long and hard about what you want to do with your life – now you must make a decision and, having made it, stick to it.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Something will happen today that shocks you. In return you will do something that shocks other people because it is completely out of character.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Your schedule and your working routine is likely to be disrupted today and, to say the least, you won't be happy about it. Be flexible.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Yes you can, if you wish, make a drama out of a crisis, but what good would it do you? Your best response is no response at all

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Your opinions about certain issues are likely to be somewhat confused. Don't worry: come the weekend you'll know all the answers again.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
In your rush to get things done today there is a danger that you could be a bit rough in the way you deal with other people. Don't be so harsh.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Cosmic activity in the area of your chart that governs property, investments and joint finances may incline you to take risks. Be cautious.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Cosmic activity in one of the more abrasive areas of your chart urges you to be careful when dealing with people in positions of power.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You don't have the time to play games and anyone who avoids giving you a straight answer deserves to will feel the rough edge of your tongue.

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Take Five

Metro Recipes of the Day

SUSAN FINDLAY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SUSAN FINDLAY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Turkey Chili, left, will warm you on those cold days while Apple-Pear Upside Down Cake, right, is a perfect finish to any meal.

Turkey Chili

INGREDIENTS:

1 each onion, carrot and celery stalk, chopped
500 ml (2 cups) each cored, chopped apples and diced butternut squash
4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
500 g (1 lb) ground turkey, cooked
30 ml (2 tbsp) chili powder
15 ml (1 tbsp) ground cumin
5 ml (1 tsp) dried oregano
1 ml (1/4 tsp) each salt and freshly ground pepper
1 can (284 ml/10 oz) undiluted chicken broth
1 can (400 ml/15 oz) light coconut milk
30 ml (2 tbsp) tomato paste
250 ml (1 cup) canned black beans, drained and rinsed
Coconut flakes and cilantro, for garnish

METHOD:

- Combine all ingredients (except garnishes) in slow cooker.
- Cook on high for 4 to 6 hours or on low for 8 to 10 hours.
- Serve with rice or mashed potatoes.
- You can Use 1 l (4 cups) diced cooked turkey or chicken in place of ground turkey. Open lid for last 45 minutes of cooking to thicken, if desired. Mash the squash with the back of a wooden spoon to thicken further.

MAKES 8 TO 10 SERVINGS

Apple-Pear Upside Down Cake

INSIDE INGREDIENTS:

50 ml (1/4 cup) butter
125 ml (1/2 cup) lightly packed brown sugar
45 ml (3 tbsp) chopped toasted pecans
2 fresh apples
1 firm but ripe pear

CAKE INGREDIENTS:

375 ml (1 1/2 cups) all-purpose flour
175 ml (3/4 cup) granulated sugar
5 ml (1 tsp) baking powder
2 ml (1/2 tsp) each baking soda, cinnamon and ground ginger
1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt
75 ml (1/3 cup) butter, softened
1 egg
175 ml (3/4 cup) buttermilk
5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla

METHOD:

- Grease bottom and sides of 2.5-l (9-inch) square cake pan.
- Add butter and melt in a 180 C (350 F) oven.
- Stir in brown sugar and spread evenly in pan; sprinkle with pecans.
- Peel, core and thinly slice apples and pear, slicing pear horizontally; toss together and arrange evenly over sugar mixture.
- Cake: In a bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger and salt.
- Add butter, egg, buttermilk and vanilla.
- With electric mixer, beat at low speed until moistened; beat at medium speed for 1 minute, scraping side of bowl.
- Spoon over fruit and spread evenly.
- Bake in a 180 C (350 F) oven for about 45 minutes or until cake tester comes out clean.
- Let cool on rack for 10 minutes.
- Run knife around edge of cake and carefully invert onto plate, replacing any bits that may stick to pan. Serve warm.

MAKES 8 TO 10 SERVINGS

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